



NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA
INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
(DES303)

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

COURSE GUIDE

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NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA

Introduction

Welcome to DES303: Introduction to Community Development, a transformative learning into the heart of Community Engagement and Development. This course, which consists of ten units spread across four lecture weeks and eight weeks practicum, is a mandatory, 0-credit, one-semester undergraduate course for NOUN 300 level students. The course is intended to provide students with the fundamental knowledge, practical skills, and ethical considerations required to initiate, plan, and implement successful community development projects. Learners will gain a deeper understanding of the multifaceted aspects of Community Development through a combination of interactive learning and hands-on practicum, including its principles, approaches, and the critical role of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) in the Nigerian context. DES303: Introduction to Community Development at the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) is designed to foster social responsibility, improve societal well-being, and contribute to the nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This course guide gives you an overview of the study and practice of Community Development, as well as everything you'll need to do to complete and walk through the course. Some general guidelines are suggested for the amount of time you should devote to each unit in order to successfully achieve the goals and objectives of the course..

Course Competencies

This course provides learners with the following competencies:

- Understand and apply fundamental Concepts and Theories of Community Development in various contexts.
- Analyze and address community needs through comprehensive assessment techniques.
- Design, plan, and implement impactful Community Projects using Participatory Approaches.
- Monitor and evaluate community projects effectively.
- Explore ethical considerations in Community Development, ensuring projects are inclusive, equitable, and sustainable.
- Foster collaboration and engagement among community stakeholders, leveraging volunteerism and partnerships for broader societal impact.

Course Objectives

The overall objectives which the course seeks to achieve are as follows:

- To provide an in-depth understanding of Community Development, its relevance to Nigerian society, and alignment with global and national Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Equip students with practical skills in identifying community needs, designing projects, and implementing solutions that address these needs effectively.
- Foster a sense of social responsibility, collaboration, and patriotism among students, encouraging active participation in community development initiatives.
- Enhance students' problem-solving abilities and critical thinking skills, especially in resource-constrained settings.
- Promote a comprehensive understanding of ethical considerations in community development, ensuring respect for community values and equitable participation.

Working through this Course

To successfully complete this course, engage diligently with the study units, reference materials, and participate in at least one practical community development project. Each unit contains self-assessment exercises (SAEs) designed to test your understanding. Participation in discussions, submission of assignments, and the final practicum are integral components of this learning journey. This 15-week course demands dedication and active involvement to harness the full spectrum of knowledge and skills presented.

Study Units

There are three (3) modules of ten (10) units and One (1) Practicum this course; all of which should be studied carefully and diligently to acquire a complete understanding of the content of the course.

MODULE ONE: INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- UNIT 1 Definition of Community Development
- UNIT 2 Introduction to Basic Theories and Concepts of Community Development
- UNIT 3 Introduction to Approaches to Community Development and Volunteerism
- UNIT 4 Introduction to Key Principles and Values of Community Development.

MODULE TWO: INTRODUCTION TO ISSUES AND TRENDS IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- UNIT 1 Overview of Current trends in Community Development
- UNIT 2 The Landscape of Community Development in Nigeria & Development Agencies in Nigeria
- UNIT 3 Introduction to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

MODULE THREE: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

- UNIT 1 Introduction to Basic Elements of Community Project Planning, Design and Implementation
- UNIT 2 Introduction to Community Needs Assessment and Ethics in Community Development
- UNIT 3 Introduction to Monitoring and Evaluation of Community Projects

COMMUNITY-BASED PRACTICUM

- Unit 1: Introduction to Community-Based Practicum
- Unit 3: Introduction to the Community Development Proposal Template.
- Unit 2: Writing Proposal for Community Development
- Unit 4: Community Entry: Using the Community Data Collection Sheet and Logbook

References and Further Readings

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Walker, 2002 - Importance of collaboration and networking in community development.

World Health Organization Nigeria: 2019 Report.

1. For additional resources, you can explore publications and reports from international organizations like the FAO, UNDP, World Bank, and African Development Bank. They often provide valuable insights and case studies related to community development.

Presentation Schedule

The presentation schedule provided outlines important dates for the completion of assignments and the practical project. Adhering to this schedule is crucial to ensure timely submission of your work and participation in the practicum. Proactive planning and consistent effort will prevent any lag in your progress..

Assessment

Although NOU 300 is a zero-credit course, it is compulsory and integral to your academic journey. The assessment comprises tutor-marked assignments and a practical evaluation. These assessments require you to apply the knowledge and skills acquired throughout the course. Your engagement and submissions must align with deadlines stated in the Presentation Schedule. The practical assignment plays a pivotal role in your final assessment, emphasizing the importance of your contribution to community development. Attendance and active participation during the assessment of your community

Tutor-Marked Assignments (TMAs)

There are two tutor-marked assignments in this course. You will submit all the assignments. You are encouraged to work on all the questions thoroughly. The TMAs constitute 30% of

the total score. Assignment questions for the units in this course are contained in the Assignment File. You will be able to complete your assignments from the information and materials contained in your set books, reading and study units. However, it is desirable that you demonstrate that you have read and researched more widely than the required minimum. You should use other references to have a broad viewpoint of the subject and also to give you a deeper understanding of the subject.

When you have completed each assignment, send it, together with a TMA form, to your tutor. Make sure that each assignment reaches your tutor on or before the deadline given in the Presentation File. If for any reason, you cannot complete your work on time, contact your tutor before the assignment is due to discuss the possibility of an extension. Extensions will not be granted after the due date unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Final Examination and Grading

The final examination will be for duration of time and have a value of zero of the overall student course grade. The examination will consist of questions which reflect the types of self-assessment practice exercises and tutor-marked problems you have previously encountered. All areas of the course will be assessed both theory and practicum. Revise the entire course material using the time between finishing the last unit in the module and that of sitting for the final project assessment . You might find it useful to review your self-assessment exercises, tutor-marked assignments and comments on your practicum before the examination. The final examination covers information from all parts of the course.

How to get the Most from the Course

In distance learning the study units replace the university lecturer. This is one of the great advantages of distance learning; you can read and work through specially designed study materials at your own pace and at a time and place that suit you best. Think of it as reading the lecture instead of listening to a lecturer. In the same way that a lecturer might set you some reading to do, the study units tell you when to read your books or other material, and when to embark on DES303 discussion with your colleagues. Just as a lecturer might give

you an in-class exercise, your study units provide exercises for you to do at appropriate points. Each of the study units follows a common format.

The first item is an introduction to the subject matter of the unit and how a particular unit is integrated with the other units and the course as a whole. Next is a set of learning objectives. These objectives let you know what you should be able to do by the time you have completed the unit. You should use these objectives to guide your study. When you have finished the unit, you must go back and check whether you have achieved the objectives. If you make a habit of doing this, you will significantly improve your chances of passing the course and getting the best grade. The main body of the unit guides you through the required reading from other sources. This will usually be either from your set books or from a readings section. Some units require you to undertake practical overview of historical events. You will be directed when you need to embark on discussion and guided through the tasks you must do.

The purpose of the practical overview of certain historical economic issues is twofold. First, it will enhance your understanding of the material in the unit. Second, it will give you practical experience and skills to evaluate economic arguments and understand the roles of history in guiding current economic policies and debates outside your studies. In any event, most of the critical thinking skills you will develop during studying are applicable in normal working practice, so it is important that you encounter them during your studies.

Self-assessments are interspersed throughout the units, and answers are given at the ends of the units. Working through these tests will help you to achieve the objectives of the unit and prepare you for the assignments and the examination. You should do each self-assessment exercise as you come to it in the study unit. Also, ensure to master some major historical dates and events while studying the material.

The following is a practical strategy for working through the course. If you run into any trouble, consult your tutor. Remember that your tutor's job is to help you. If you need help, don't hesitate to call and ask your tutor to provide it.

Read this Course Guide Thoroughly:

1. Organize a study schedule. Refer to the 'Course overview' for more details. Note the time you are expected to spend on each unit and how the assignments relate to the units. Important information, e.g. details of your tutorials, and the date of the first day of the semester, is available from study center. You need to gather together all this information in one place, such as your diary or a wall calendar. Whatever method you choose to use, you should decide on and write in your own dates for working through each unit.
2. Once you have created your own study schedule, do everything you can to stick to it. The major reason that students fail is that they get behind with their course work. If you get into difficulties with your schedule, please let your tutor know before it is too late for help.
3. Turn to Unit 1 and read the introduction and the objectives for the unit.
4. Assemble the study materials. Information about what you need for a unit is given in the 'Overview' at the beginning of each unit. You will also need both the study unit you are working on and one of your set books on your desk at the same time.
5. Work through the unit. The content of the unit itself has been arranged to provide a sequence for you to follow. As you work through the unit you will be instructed to read sections from your set books or other articles. Use the unit to guide your reading.
6. Up-to-date course information will be continuously delivered to you at the study center.
7. Work before the relevant due date (about 4 weeks before due dates), get the Assignment File for the next required assignment. Keep in mind that you will learn a lot by doing the assignments carefully. They have been designed to help you meet the objectives of the course and, therefore, will help you pass the exam. Submit all assignments no later than the due date.

8. Review the objectives for each study unit to confirm that you have achieved them. If you feel unsure about any of the objectives, review the study material or consult your tutor.
9. When you are confident that you have achieved a unit's objectives, you can then start on the next unit. Proceed unit by unit through the course and try to pace your study so that you keep yourself on schedule.
10. When you have submitted an assignment to your tutor for marking do not wait for it return before starting on the next units. Keep to your schedule. When the assignment is returned, pay particular attention to your tutor's comments, both on the tutor-marked assignment form and also written on the assignment. Consult your tutor as soon as possible if you have any questions or problems.
11. After completing the last unit, review the course and prepare yourself for the final examination. Check that you have achieved the unit objectives (listed at the beginning of each unit) and the course objectives (listed in this Course Guide).

Online Facilitation

For semester the course is taken, you have about eight (8) weeks of online facilitation on this course. During the online presentation, you are probably made available with notes and video materials from the course facilitator. These materials intend to enable you read through the materials.

Module 1: INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Unit 1: Definition of Community Development

Unit Structure

- 1.1 Introduction
- 1.2 Learning Outcomes (LOs)
- 1.3 Main Content
 - 1.3.1 What is a community?
 - 1.3.2. Features of communities
 - 1.3.3 Assumptions and Fallacies about Communities
- 1.4 Definition of Community Development
 - 1.4.1 The United Nations Definition
 - 1.4.2 A Nigerian Perspective
- 1.5 Conclusion
- 1.6 Summary
- 1.7 References/Further Readings/Web Resources
- 1.8 Possible Answers to Self-Assessment Exercise(s)



1.0 Introduction

Welcome to Module One, Unit One: Definition of Community Development! In this unit, we'll dive into the very essence of our course: what exactly is community development? We'll explore the term from various angles, starting with the building blocks - communities themselves, and examine some common assumptions and misconceptions about communities. we'll also explore the core concepts of community development, Finally, we'll land on a clear and relevant definition of community development that resonates with the course providing you with a solid foundation to understand its principles, practices, and impact.



1.2 Learning Outcomes (LOs)

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- Define community development using various perspectives.
- Identify the key features of communities relevant to development.
- Distinguish between common assumptions and fallacies about communities.
- Explain the origins and evolution of the concept of community development in Nigeria and globally.



1.3 Main Content

1.3.1. What is a Community?

Before defining community development, let's paint a clear picture of what we mean by "community." Early notions focused on small, homogenous groups with distinct features and self-sufficiency. However, modern scholars see communities as dynamic systems involving social structures, cultural behaviours, and even conflicts. But for our purposes we can adopt this operational definition:

A community is a group of people sharing a common space, time, social organization, and often, values and interests. This shared space can be physical or virtual, and the group's identity can be fluid and evolving.

1.3.2. Features of Communities

To understand how communities develop, and the nuances of community development, here are some key features to keep in mind:

1. People: Understanding the demographics and ethnic composition and social structures within a community is crucial for designing effective development projects.

2. Space/Place: Communities often occupy a defined physical area, shaping their lives through geography, resources, and infrastructure.
3. Time: understanding the historical context and evolution of a community can significantly influence its current circumstances, development needs and development approaches. Consider for instance refugees or resettled communities with unique needs.
4. Social Organization: Understanding how people interact, collaborate, and make decisions within a community is essential for effective interventions and sustainable development.

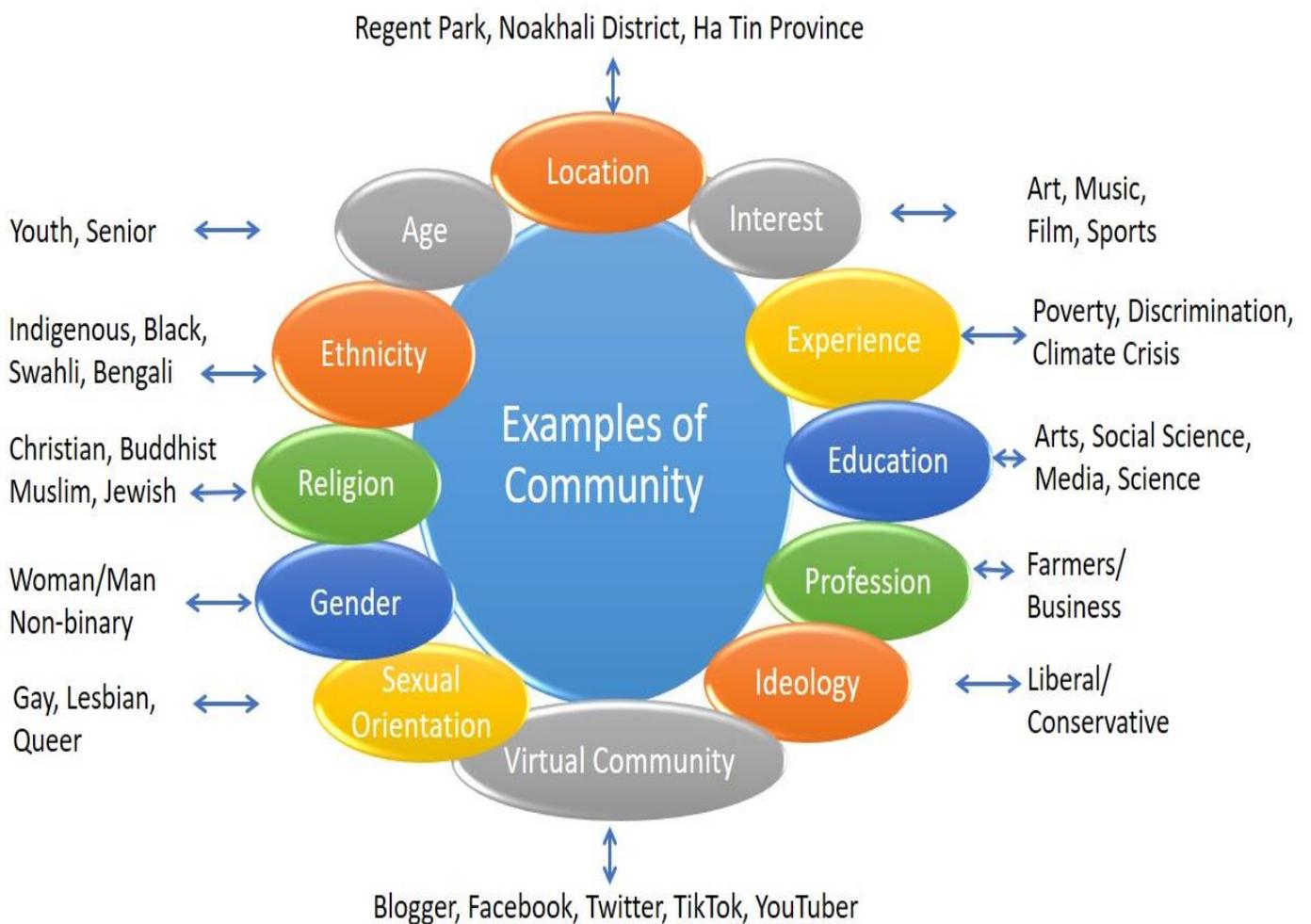


Figure created by Dr. Hasan to explain community

Figure 1: Examples of Community

1.3.3 Assumptions and Fallacies about Communities

It's important to beware of these common misconceptions about communities that can hinder effective development. Let's examine a few:

- **Myth:** Communities are inherently unified and harmonious (Harmony and Unity)

Reality: Communities are diverse and can have internal conflicts, requiring inclusive approaches to development.

- **Myth:** Strong community spirit always facilitates successful development and easy to develop.

Reality: Development requires more than just unity; factors like resources, infrastructure, and external support also play a crucial role.

- **Myth:** Tradition is an obstacle to progress.

Reality: Traditional practices can be valuable assets in development, offering local knowledge and resilience.

- **Myth:** Communities have universally felt needs that can be easily identified.

Reality: Needs and aspirations vary within and between communities. They aren't always readily available or easily categorized. Poverty and deprivation can render long-term aspirations unclear, requiring participatory needs assessments.

- **Myth:** Communities have readily available leadership structures.

Reality: Leadership and decision-making processes can be informal and complex, requiring flexible and collaborative approaches.

- **Myth:** Communities as inherently Good, a value judgment based on romanticized notions.

Reality: Communities, like any social group, can harbour negative aspects

- **Myth:** Everyone desires a higher standard of living and welcomes change.

Reality: Communities may have diverse aspirations and levels of comfort with change, requiring culturally sensitive development strategies.

Self-Assessment Exercises 1

- 1 Think of a local community you know well. Analyse its features based on the points discussed. How do these features influence development potential?
- 2 Identify a common assumption or fallacy about communities. Explain why it's important to avoid such generalizations in community development practice.

1.4 Definition of Community Development

Now, with a deeper understanding of communities, we can define community development. There are many definitions, but we'll focus on two key perspectives:

1.4.1 The United Nations Definition

The United Nations Economic and Social Council defines Community Development as: The process by which the efforts of the people themselves are united with those of the governmental authorities to improve the economic and socio-cultural conditions of communities, to integrate these communities into the life of the nation, and to enable them to contribute fully to national progress.

This definition emphasizes:

- People's participation: Community members actively engage in identifying needs and implementing solutions.
- Collaboration: Government and communities work together for mutual benefit.
- Sustainable development: Economic, social, and cultural aspects are all addressed.

Figure 2: Definitions of Community Development

THE DEFINITIONS OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The term 'Community Development' has come into international usage to connote the processes that allows community residents to come together to plan, generate solutions and take action developing the evolution oof social, economic environmental and cultural aspects of community (Hackett, 2004)

Community development is the planned evaluation of all aspects of community well being (Frank & Smith, 1999)

Community development holds a potential to build community cohesion by facilitating a community's capacity to engage connections between individuals, organizations, local groups (Chaskin et al, 2001)

1.4.2 A Nigerian Perspective

From the Nigerian context, Filani (2000) defines community development as a people-centered action: a process of social action in which people of the community organize themselves for the identification of their needs, planning and act with maximum reliance on their own resources, complemented by government and voluntary organization. For Okonkwo (2010): community development is about utilizing traditional institutions and creativity for self-help projects. Whereby people will use their traditional institutions and creativity to initiate self-help projects aimed at responding positively to the problems of their environment. Although the onus for initiating such projects lies with the members of the community, they do not necessarily have to conclude them alone. For this course Community Development (CD) can be thought of as teamwork between the people who live in a community to make life better for everyone involved. It's about people coming together, including from the community or voluntary organization or the government, to improve how things are going in their area. They work together to make the community more prosperous, happier, and connected to the bigger picture of the country. Community development is all about making things better.

Click on the link below to get more information on Community Development

Link: <https://youtu.be/oA5fXnIF17U?si=sgmG91LZn8CQZ5-m>

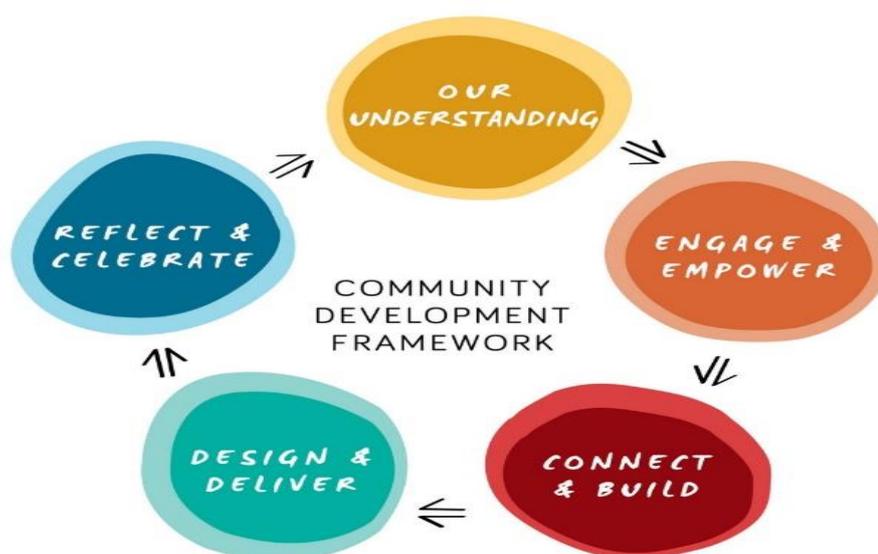


Figure 3: Community Development Framework

1.5 Conclusion

By now, you've gained valuable insights into the concept of community development. We've explored the multifaceted nature of communities, challenged common misconceptions, and arrived at a nuanced understanding of this transformative process. Remember, community development is not a one-size-fits-all approach; it requires respect for local context, collaborative effort, and a commitment to empowering communities to achieve their own goals.

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- Explain the concept of "community" and its diverse characteristics.
- Identify the key features of communities relevant to community development.
- Analyze common assumptions and misconceptions about communities.
- Define community development in your own words, applying it to the Nigerian context.

Keep this knowledge at the forefront as you explore the various aspects of community development.!



1.6 Summary

- Communities are complex systems with diverse populations, evolving social structures, and dynamic cultural landscapes.
- Key features of communities include people, space/place, time, and social organization.
- Assumptions and fallacies: Communities are not always unified, strong community spirit doesn't guarantee success, tradition can be an asset, felt needs vary, leadership structures can be informal, change may not be universally desired.
- Community development is a collaborative process involving people, government, and other stakeholders to improve economic, social, and cultural conditions.
- Nigerian perspective: Communities actively identify needs, plan and implement solutions, rely on their own initiative and resources, with external support.
- Participatory approaches that respect local knowledge and needs are essential for sustainable development.



1.7 References/Further Readings/Web Resources

Filani, M. O. (2000). Community development and adult education in Nigeria: A conceptual framework. *Journal of Adult Education in Africa*, 40(2), 79-91.

Mayer, A. C. (1958). Caste and economic stratification in India. *Social Forces*, 36(3), 204-211.

Nair, K. G. (1962). Some observations on the problem of economic development in India. *Journal of Social Studies*, 4(3), 192-200.

Okonkwo, C. I. (2010). *Community development in Nigeria: A grassroots approach*. Enugu: SNAAP Press.

United Nations Economic and Social Council (1954). Definition of community development. Economic and Social Council Resolution 522 (VI), 12 December 1954.



1.8 Possible Answers to SAEs

Answers to SAEs 1

1. (This will vary depending on the community you choose.) Identify specific examples of how the features discussed in the unit apply to your chosen community. For example, you could mention the demographic composition, the physical environment, the historical context, or the existing social structures.
2. Choose one common assumption about communities mentioned in the unit and explain how it can be misleading in the context of community development in Nigeria. Use examples from your own experiences or observations to illustrate your point.

Remember, these are just suggested answers. You should think critically and develop your own responses based on your understanding of the concepts.

Unit 2: Introduction to Basic Theories and Concepts of Community Development

Unit Structure

- 2.1 Introduction
- 2.2 Learning Outcomes (LOs)
- 2.3 Main Content- Understanding Theories and Concepts
 - 2.3.1 Exploring Different Theories of Community Development
 - 2.3.2 Community development is also influenced by broader social policy approaches.
- 2.4 Normative Concepts that Guide Community Development Practices
- 2.5 Conclusion
- 2.6 Summary
- 2.7 References/Further Readings/Web Resources
- 2.8 Possible Answers to Self-Assessment Exercise(s)



2.1 Introduction

Welcome to Unit 2! In our last unit, we explored the meaning of community development – empowering communities to identify their needs, resources, and aspirations.

In this unit, we'll unlock the theoretical toolkit and dive into the intriguing world of community development theories and concepts. These ideas form the foundation for understanding how communities can work together to improve their lives and solve challenges. We'll explore different perspectives on community development, delve into key theories, and see how they apply. By the end of this unit, You'll gain a solid understanding of why these ideas matter and how they influence community development initiatives in Nigeria and beyond.



2.2 Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, you will be able to:

- Define key terms and concepts related to community development theories.

- Identify different perspectives on community development, including consensus theory, pluralist theory, and structuralist theory.
- Discuss the impact of the statist, enterprise, and populist paradigms on social policy and community development.
- Apply your understanding of theories to real-world case studies of community development in Nigeria.
- Develop your own critical thinking skills about community development and its potential impact.



2.3 Main Content-Understanding Theories and Concepts

Before diving into specific theories, let's first clarify what we mean by "theory" and "concept" in the context of community development. A theory is a set of interrelated ideas that attempt to explain and predict how something works. In community development, theories help us understand how communities' function, how they face challenges, and how they can be empowered to achieve their goals. A concept, on the other hand, is a basic building block of a theory. It's a mental image or idea that represents a specific aspect of the theory. For example, concepts like "participation," "empowerment," and "social justice" are all important building blocks of community development theories.

2.3.1 Exploring Different Theories of Community Development

Understanding different theories of community development can help us navigate the complexities of this field. Now, let's explore three major theories on community development:

1. **Consensus Theory:** This theory views communities as relatively harmonious entities with shared values and goals. It emphasizes the importance of collaboration and cooperation in achieving community development. Supporters of this theory believe that communities can identify their needs and solve problems through collective action. Community development practitioners, in this view, act as facilitators who help communities identify and implement their common aspirations.

2. **Pluralist Theory:** Unlike consensus theory, pluralist theory recognizes diversity and potential conflict within communities. Different groups may have competing interests and priorities. Pluralist theorists acknowledge that conflict can be a natural part of community development, and that finding solutions requires accommodating different perspectives.

It emphasizes the importance of dialogue, negotiation, and compromise in reaching decisions that benefit all members. Community development efforts, under this approach, focus on building collaboration and finding common ground among diverse voices.

3. **Structuralist Theory:** This theory emphasizes the underlying power structures and inequalities that shape communities. In other words, it focuses on the unequal power structures that can exist within and between communities. And argues that community development efforts must address these power imbalances to ensure that everyone benefits from progress. Structuralists believe that changing larger social and economic structures is crucial for achieving true community development.

Community development is seen as a way to challenge these inequalities and empower marginalized groups to achieve social justice and sustainable development gain greater control over their lives and decisions. (Brokensha, D., & Hodge, P. (1969).

4. **Feminist Theory:** This perspective highlights the role of gender relations and inequalities in shaping community development processes and outcomes. Feminist approaches advocate for gender-inclusive and empowering strategies that address the specific needs and challenges of women (Moser, 1993).

5. **Postcolonial Theory:** This framework critiques the legacy of colonialism and its impact on community development. It emphasizes the importance of decolonizing knowledge, recognizing local knowledge and practices, and promoting community self-determination (Grugel & Sultan, 2013).

Click on the link below to get more information on Theories of Community Development

<https://youtu.be/wao13uuNko4?si=aGFNRwZ485OqXyvO>



Feminists build consensus, push for gender equity, accountability. Courtesy The Guardian

To illustrate these theories in action, Let's take a closer look at two case studies from Nigeria:

- **The Gboko Water Project:** This project aimed to provide clean water to a rural community in Benue State. Initially, the project followed a consensus theory approach, relying on community leaders to make decisions. However, this led to accusations of favoritism and exclusion. By incorporating elements of pluralist theory, the project organizers held open meetings and encouraged diverse participation, ultimately leading to a more equitable distribution of water resources.
- **The Niger Delta Youth Movement:** This movement emerged in response to environmental degradation and oil spills in the Niger Delta region. Drawing on structuralist theory, the movement challenged the power dynamics of the oil industry and demanded greater control over resources and environmental protection. Their efforts led to increased awareness and some policy changes, demonstrating the potential of structuralist approaches to community development.

Self-Assessment Exercises 1

1. Think of a community you know well. Which of the three perspectives (consensus, pluralist, or structuralist) do you think best describes its approach to development? Why?

1. Statist Paradigm: This approach emphasizes the role of government in leading and directing community development efforts. It prioritizes national planning, top-down interventions, and social safety nets.
2. Enterprise Paradigm: This approach focuses on market-based solutions and individual responsibility. It encourages private sector involvement, micro-entrepreneurship, and economic development initiatives.
3. Populist Paradigm: This approach emphasizes the importance of community participation, local knowledge, and social mobilization. It promotes bottom-up processes, collective action, and empowerment of marginalized groups. (Hall and Midgely, 2004)

Additional Case Studies:

The Lagos Slum Upgrading Project: This complex initiative addressed the challenges of informal settlements in Lagos by working with residents to improve infrastructure, provide basic services, and promote community-driven development. It incorporated aspects of structuralist theory by challenging power dynamics and advocating for increased government investment in marginalized communities.

Self-Assessment Exercises 2

1. Identify a news article or documentary that discusses a community development project in Nigeria. Analyze the project through the lens of one of the theories discussed in this unit. How does the theory help explain the project's successes or challenges?

2.4 Normative Concepts that Guide Community Development Practices

In Section 2.3, we explored foundations for understanding key community development theories. Beyond understanding different theoretical perspectives, it's also important to explore the normative concepts that guide community development practices.

These concepts serve as ideals or principles that ought to be pursued in community development efforts. Here are some key examples:

- **Participation:** This central concept in community development refers to the involvement of all community members in decision-making processes, ensuring diverse voices are heard and considered. It emphasizes the active involvement of community members in decision-making processes and project implementation. Different theories emphasize varying degrees and forms of participation, ranging from token inclusion to full empowerment (Cooke & Kothari, 2001).
- **Empowerment:** This concept goes beyond participation; it involves building the capacity of individuals and communities to take control over their own development and solve their own problems. The focus is on increasing the capacity and agency of individuals and communities to control their own lives and make decisions that affect them (Narayan, 1997). Empowerment can be achieved through various means, such as capacity building, resource mobilization, and advocacy.
- **Equity and Social Justice:** This aims to ensure that all community members have fair access to resources and opportunities, regardless of their background or social status.
- **Sustainability:** Community development projects should aim for long-term success and positive impact beyond the initial intervention. This requires considering environmental, social, and economic sustainability factors (WCED, 1987).

Additional Case Studies:

- **The Zakat Initiative in Northern Nigeria:** This programme uses Islamic charitable principles (zakat) to fund community development projects in underserved areas. It empowers local communities to identify their needs and manage resources, demonstrating a faith-based approach to community development.
- **The One Million Trees Project in Edo State:** This initiative aims to restore degraded forests and promote sustainable land management practices. It involves partnerships between government agencies, NGOs, and local communities, showcasing a

collaborative approach to environmental protection and community development.
<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2018/10/obaseki-pledges-support-for-one-million-trees-project-in-edo/>

Self-Assessment Exercises 3

1. Imagine you're a community development facilitator. Choose one of the Normative Concept discussed above. How would you use this approach to address a specific challenge or need in a Nigerian community?

2.5 Conclusion

This unit has provided a foundational understanding of key theories and concepts in community development. We explored the fascinating world of community development theories and concepts. We've learned about different perspectives, from recognizing the importance of collaboration (Consensus Theory) to acknowledging diverse viewpoints (Pluralist Theory) and addressing power imbalances (Structuralist Theory), analyzed real-world case studies and discussed normative principles that guide this field. By understanding these ideas, you can become a more informed and critical thinker about community development. Community development is a dynamic and evolving process.

Remember, the LOs encourage you to continue refining your critical thinking skills. By critically engaging with theories, learning from case studies, and developing your critical thinking skills, you can contribute to building vibrant and thriving communities.



2.6 Summary

This unit explored different theories and perspectives on community development, including consensus, pluralist, and structuralist theories. We examined case studies from Nigeria to illustrate how these theories apply in real-world contexts. The unit emphasized the importance of normative concepts like participation, empowerment, equity, and sustainability in community development. We discussed strategies for refining your critical thinking skills to analyze and evaluate community development efforts.



2.7 References/Further Readings/Web Resources

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2.8 Possible Answers to SAEs

1. Think of a community you know well. Which of the three perspectives (consensus, pluralist, or structuralist) do you think best describes its approach to development? Why?

Possible Answers to SAE 1:

- **Consensus:** If the community relies heavily on community leaders to make decisions, focuses on shared values and cooperation, and rarely faces significant internal conflict, then a consensus approach might be dominant.
- **Pluralist:** If the community acknowledges diverse viewpoints, has regular discussions and debates about development priorities, and actively seeks to include marginalized voices, then a pluralist approach might be more fitting.
- **Structuralist:** If the community faces significant power imbalances, struggles with issues of inequality and marginalization, and actively challenges external forces that impact its development, then a structuralist perspective might be relevant.

Remember: Communities can exhibit elements of all three perspectives, and the most dominant approach may vary depending on the specific context and issue at hand.

2. Identify a news article or documentary that discusses a community development project in Nigeria. Analyze the project through the lens of one of the theories discussed in this unit. How does the theory help explain the project's successes or challenges?

Possible Answer to SAE 2

- Choose a project and theory: Select a specific community development project in Nigeria from a news article or documentary. Then, choose one of the three theories (consensus, pluralist, or structuralist) that you believe best applies to the project's approach.
 - Analyze the connection: Explain how the chosen theory helps explain the project's successes and/or challenges. For example, if you chose a consensus theory and the project faced accusations of favoritism, you could explain how this highlights the potential drawbacks of relying solely on community leaders without incorporating diverse perspectives.
 - Provide evidence: Support your analysis with specific details from the project description. This could include quotes, statistics, or examples of how the project interacted with the community.
3. Imagine you're a community development facilitator. Choose one of the Normative Concepts discussed above (participation, empowerment, sustainability, social justice). How would you use this approach to address a specific challenge or need in a Nigerian community?

Possible Answer to SAE 3

- Participation: To address a lack of access to clean water in a rural community, you could facilitate participatory workshops to identify water sources, involve residents in decision-making about water management systems, and build capacity for community-based maintenance.
- Sustainability: To combat environmental degradation in a village near a forest, you could empower residents to manage forest resources sustainably through community-

based forestry practices, promote renewable energy solutions, and advocate for policies that protect the environment.

- Social Justice: To address gender inequality in access to education, you could raise awareness about the issue, organize community dialogues on gender roles and discrimination, and support initiatives that provide scholarships and educational opportunities for girls.

Remember: These are just a few examples, and the specific strategies you choose will depend on the unique context of the community and the challenge you are addressing.



Courtesy: Thisday Newspapers February 2022

Unit 3: Introduction to Approaches to Community Development and Volunteerism

Unit Structure

- 3.1 Introduction
- 3.2 Learning Outcomes
- 3.3 Main Content- Approaches to Community Development: An Introduction
 - 3.3.1 Approaches to Community Development
- 3.4 Volunteerism in Community Development: An Introduction
 - 3.4.1 Defining Volunteerism and its Role.
- 3.5 Conclusion
- 3.6 Summary
- 3.7 References/Further Readings/ Web Resources
- 3.8 Possible Answers to Self-Assessment Exercise(s)



3.1 Introduction

Welcome to Module One Unit 3: Approaches to Community Development and Introduction to Volunteerism! Building on the theoretical foundation we laid in Unit 2, Unit 3 dives deeper into the practical world of community development. Now that we understand the theories behind building strong communities, we'll explore the diverse approaches used to put those theories into action. We'll look at – volunteerism – and explore its transformative and the vital role of volunteerism in driving positive change and transforming communities.



3.2 Learning Outcomes.

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- Define and differentiate between key approaches to community development.
- Analyze the strengths and limitations of different approaches in various contexts,
- Identify and discuss different approaches to community development, including top-down, bottom-up, participatory, and integrated approaches.

- Define and understand the concept of volunteerism in the context of community development.
- Apply your understanding of different approaches to analyze effective solutions for community challenges in your own context.
- Assess your own skills and interests in becoming a volunteer and identify potential volunteer opportunities in Nigeria.



3.3 Approaches to Community Development: An Introduction

As shown in Unit One, Community Development often is multifaceted and seeks above all to improve the lives and well-being of people in a specific community. It emphasizes local participation, empowerment, and collaboration to develop and to address the challenges of building a more equitable society.

Community Development process involves mobilizing local resources, building partnerships, and utilizing various strategies to improve the social, economic, and environmental well-being of a community. In Nigeria, community development plays a crucial role in addressing issues like poverty, inequality, inadequate infrastructure, and environmental degradation.

3.3.1 Approaches to Community Development

There are numerous approaches to community development, each with its unique principles and methodologies. In this section we will explore some of these approaches to community development, their strengths and limitations, as well as their relevance to the Nigerian context.

- **Top-down approach:** This traditional approach involves the government or external agencies making decisions and resources available to communities and they (government or external actors) also initiate and direct development projects in a community. While it can offer resources expertise and quick infrastructure development, it often lacks community participation, local ownership, and can be insensitive to community needs, leading to unsustainable results.

- Bottom-up approach: This approach prioritizes local participation and empowers communities to identify their needs, set priorities, and design and implement their own development projects. Bottom-up approach empowers local communities, emphasizing its strengths in inclusivity and ownership. This fosters ownership and sustainability.
- The approach, however, face potential challenges in resource mobilization, coordination, capacity building and navigating complex power dynamics.
- The Integrated Approach or Participatory Approach: A hybrid of top-down and bottom-up, this approach combines external resources and expertise with local knowledge and priorities. It facilitates collaboration and ensures projects are relevant to the community's needs. It seeks to ensure that development projects are informed by local needs and priorities while leveraging external resources and expertise.
- Asset-based approach: This approach recognizes and builds upon the existing strengths and resources within a community. By focusing on identifying and building upon existing strengths and resources within a community. It empowers community members to utilize their skills, knowledge, and networks to drive development. It fosters local confidence and collaboration, leading to sustainable development solutions.
- Human Rights-based approach: This approach focuses on empowering communities to claim their fundamental rights to resources, services, and participation in decision-making. This approach emphasizes the importance of respecting and fulfilling human rights in the context of community development. The focus is to ensure that development projects do not violate fundamental rights. It actively promotes social justice, equality and equity, but also requires addressing systemic inequalities and power imbalances.

Click on the link below to on Approaches to Community Development

<https://youtu.be/iFVmGgc4BFs?si=GI4JtVd0fECckwSB>

<https://youtu.be/iFVmGgc4BFs?si=7fnCLVhs8FeJypwy>

Case Studies from Nigeria

- In rural Nigeria, a top-down approach resulted in the construction of a new irrigation system. However, without local involvement in planning and maintenance, the system faced challenges in addressing water distribution needs and ensuring its long-term sustainability. This case highlights the limitations of top-down approaches and the potential for community participation to improve project effectiveness.
- **The Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) project in the Niger Delta:** This project used a participatory approach to identify and address environmental degradation and poverty in oil-producing communities. Through workshops and community dialogues, local residents identified their needs and priorities, leading to the development of sustainable livelihood projects and improved environmental management.
- **The Gbowee Peace Initiative in Liberia:** This initiative, led by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Leymah Gbowee, employed a bottom-up approach to mobilize women in Liberia to end the civil war. Through community dialogues and non-violent protests, women played a crucial role in negotiating peace and rebuilding their communities.

Self-Assessment Exercises 1

1. Identify a specific community development challenge in Nigeria. Which approach (top-down, bottom-up, participatory, asset-based, or rights-based) would you recommend addressing this challenge? Why?
2. Compare and contrast the strengths and limitations of two different approaches to community development.
3. Provide an example of a successful community development project in Nigeria that exemplifies one of the approaches discussed. What factors contributed to its success?

3.4 Volunteerism in Community Development: An Introduction

3.4.1 Defining Volunteerism and its Role

Volunteerism is the act of giving your time and skills freely to benefit others. It harnesses the power of individuals' time, skills, and knowledge to contribute to collective well-being, fostering ownership and social cohesion. Volunteerism plays a crucial role in community development (CD), bridging the gap between local needs and available resources.. It injects manpower into local initiatives, and it is powerful tool for tackling shared local challenges, building social capital, and empowering communities with a sense of shared ownership to build a better future.

The world of volunteerism is diverse, offering opportunities for everyone: Skilled volunteers contribute their professional expertise, like doctors in health clinics or engineers in infrastructure projects. Unskilled volunteers provide general support, assisting with tasks like organizing events or painting murals. There's a volunteering for everyone! The spectrum ranges from skilled professionals (doctors, engineers, teachers) offering their expertise to unskilled individuals contributing their time and effort.

Whether skilled professionals or common citizens, Volunteers, bring fresh perspectives energy, and invaluable resources to community initiatives.



Figure 4:Volunteers at work

3.4.2 Types of Volunteerism

There are 2 types of Volunteerism.

- Formal volunteering: This involves organized programmes and structures.
- Informal volunteering: This is more flexible, and spontaneous It can be as simple as helping a neighbor in need or even time and dedication (mentoring youth, organizing events).

Volunteering can be done informally or formally through NGOs, the key for is finding the right fit for the Volunteer skills and interests.

3.4.3 Benefits of Volunteerism

- Volunteering is a win-win: Communities gain valuable support, access to skills and resources, tackle local challenges, build social cohesion, and foster a sense of ownership.
- Volunteers: Develop new skills, gain valuable experience, and contribute to a meaningful cause and gain purpose, and deeper connection to their communities and society.



Figure 5: Volunteer for social sustainability

Click on the link below to know more on Volunteerism
https://youtu.be/mb86_af_vi8?si=orNrN1_pNKUDP-Ru

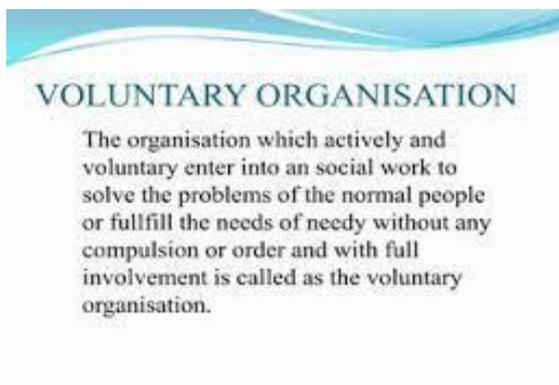
3.4.4 Voluntary Organizations

International and local organisations including NGOs/CSOs play a crucial role in mobilizing volunteers and facilitating volunteerism by:

- Acting as bridges between communities and volunteers, ensuring effective engagement.
- Identifying community needs and matching them with volunteer skills.
- Providing training and support to volunteers. Also providing transportation and childcare options for Marginalized Communities volunteers.
- Empowering communities to lead their own development initiatives and building trust and relationships between communities and volunteers.
- Community-based organizations (CSOs) can facilitate a peer-to-peer outreach that can be effective reaching marginalized communities, overcoming barriers where culturally sensitive is require and promoting volunteerism.

3.4.5 Challenges and Limitations

- Volunteerism faces challenges, like sustainability, ensuring long-term commitment, managing expectations and ethical considerations, particularly in terms of culturally sensitive approaches respecting local traditions and values.
- Maintaining volunteer engagement and ensuring long-term project success can be difficult impacting sustainability. Matching volunteer skills and interests with community needs requires careful planning and communication.
- Unequal power dynamics can exploit volunteers or marginalize certain community voices. Ethical considerations, such as cultural sensitivity and power dynamics, also require careful attention.



3.4.6 Successful Volunteer Initiatives in Nigeria

In Nigerian volunteerism has demonstrated the potential to drive positive change in communities. As showcase with these examples of volunteer-driven initiatives:

- Initiatives like LEAP Africa's Youth Development Programme, empowering rural communities.
- Slum Dwellers International: Empowers slum communities through participatory planning and development.
- Volunteer Service Overseas (VSO): Connects international volunteers with local organizations for impactful projects.
- Bring Back Our Girls (BBOG): A citizen-led movement advocating for the return of kidnapped schoolgirls.
- Slum Art Initiative, using art to revitalize slums, all showcase the transformative potential of volunteers.
-

Remember! In community development volunteerism, becomes a potent force for positive change. The power of volunteers can be harnessed to build stronger, more resilient communities in Nigeria and beyond.

3.4.7 Ethics and Values in Volunteerism

Volunteerism is a powerful tool for community transformation, but it is not a one-size-fits-all solution. By understanding its nuances, addressing challenges, and embracing ethical practices, we can unlock the potential of community development. To achieve this transparency, accountability, and cultural sensitivity are paramount as we see in Unit 4.

Some Ethical considerations in volunteer work:

- Volunteers must avoid paternalism and power imbalances, respecting local knowledge and traditions.
- Ensuring volunteers have informed consent and understand their role and potential risks.
- Volunteers must be cultural sensitivity and avoid exploitation and respecting local customs.
- Volunteers must ensure projects sustainability and that it benefits the community long-term, not just volunteers.

Self-Assessment Exercises 2

1. Think of a community challenge in Nigeria. How could volunteerism be leveraged to address it? What types of volunteers would be needed?

3.5 Conclusion

This unit explored diverse approaches to community development (CD) and the vital role of volunteerism in driving positive change. We examined top-down, bottom-up, participatory, integrated, and asset-based approaches, highlighting their strengths, limitations, and relevance to the Nigerian context. We also delved into the concept of volunteerism, its benefits for both communities and volunteers, and the types of volunteerism available. Understanding these nuances and challenges prepares us to harness the power of volunteerism and diverse CD approaches for building stronger, more resilient communities.

This unit explored diverse approaches to community development (CD) and the vital role of volunteerism in driving positive change. We examined top-down, bottom-up, participatory, integrated, and asset-based approaches, highlighting their strengths, limitations, and relevance to the Nigerian context. We also delved into the concept of volunteerism, its benefits for both communities and volunteers, and the types of volunteerism available. Understanding these nuances and challenges prepares us to harness the power of volunteerism and diverse CD approaches for building stronger, more resilient communities.

Key Points:

- Explored various approaches to community development: top-down, bottom-up, participatory, integrated, and asset-based. Analyzed their strengths, limitations, and relevance to Nigeria.
- Defined and discussed volunteerism in the context of community development, highlighting its benefits for both communities and volunteers.
- Examined challenges and limitations of volunteerism, including sustainability, ethical considerations, and managing expectations.
- Provided examples of successful volunteer-driven initiatives in Nigeria



3.6 Summary

This unit focused on the practical world of community development, exploring various approaches and the vital role of volunteerism. It delved into top-down, bottom-up, participatory, integrated, and asset-based approaches, highlighting their strengths, limitations, and application in Nigeria.

Recognizing the power of volunteerism, the unit explored its definition, different types, benefits, challenges, and showcased successful volunteer-driven initiatives in Nigeria. Ethical considerations in volunteer work were emphasized, underscoring the importance of cultural sensitivity, informed consent, and project sustainability. By understanding these key aspects, students can become active participants in shaping the future of their communities.



3.7 References/Further Readings/Web Resources

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3.8 Possible Answers to SAEs

1. Identifying a Community Development Challenge and Approach:

Possible Answers to SAE 1:

Example:

- Challenge: Limited access to clean water in rural communities in Northern Nigeria.
- Recommended Approach: Participatory and asset based.

Explanation:

- Top-down: A government-led approach might be fast, but it may not consider local needs and knowledge effectively.
- Bottom-up: While empowering, it can be slow and lack coordination.
- Participatory: Engaging community members in identifying solutions and implementing projects can lead to sustainable and culturally appropriate solutions.
- Asset-based: Focusing on existing resources and skills within the community can build on local strengths and promote self-reliance.
- Rights-based: Emphasizing the community's right to clean water ensures accountability and long-term access.

Challenge: Gender-based violence in urban areas.

- Approach: Rights-based and participatory: This approach emphasizes the right of women to safety and empowers them to be agents of change. Community dialogues, legal literacy workshops, and collaboration with women's rights groups can raise awareness, build support systems, and advocate for policy changes that address the root causes of violence.

Explanations:

- Align the approach to the specific challenge: Consider the nature of the issue and the resources available. Asset-based approaches work well for livelihood challenges, while rights-based approaches are better suited for addressing inequalities and injustices.
- Highlight why the chosen approach is suitable: Explain how the approach engages the community, empowers them, and leverages their strengths to address the identified problem.

1b. Comparing and Contrasting Approaches:

Possible Comparison:

- Top-down vs. Bottom-up:
 - Top-down: Strengths: Efficiency, rapid implementation. Limitations: Can be insensitive to local needs, lack of ownership and sustainability.
 - Bottom-up: Strengths: Community ownership, responsive to local needs, more sustainable. Limitations: Can be time-consuming, require strong community organization, potentially overlook broader issues.

Explanations:

- Focus on key strengths and limitations of each approach: Be specific and provide examples to illustrate your points.
- Acknowledge potential trade-offs: There's often a balance to strike between efficiency and community involvement.
- Consider the context: The suitability of an approach can depend on factors like the urgency of the issue, available resources, and existing power structures.

2. Think of a community challenge in Nigeria. How could volunteerism be leveraged to address it? What types of volunteers would be needed?

Possible Answer to SAE 2:

Choose a specific community challenge (e.g., lack of sanitation facilities, youth unemployment) and identify the required skills (e.g., engineers for sanitation projects, mentors for youth programmes). Consider involving both skilled and unskilled volunteers, ensuring cultural sensitivity and ethical practices.



Unit 4: Introduction to Key Principles and Values of Community Development.

Unit structure

- 4.1 Introduction
- 4.2 Learning Outcomes
- 4.3 Main Content- Unveiling the Compass of Community Development:
- 4.4 Key Principles and Values
 - 4.4.1 Additional Principles and Values
 - 4.4.2 Challenges to Applying Principles and Values
- 4.5 Conclusion
- 4.6 Summary
- 4.7 References/Further Readings/Web Resources
- 4.8 Possible Answers to Self-Assessment Exercise(s)



4.1 Introduction

Welcome, future community builders! Today, we embark on a journey to understand the fundamental principles and values that guide effective community development. This unit delves into the cornerstone of successful community development efforts – the key principles and values that guide us towards building stronger, more resilient communities. We'll explore the essential ingredients that make community development tick, and that will equip you with the knowledge and values to become an agent of positive change in your own community.



4.2 Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, you will be able to:

- Define the key principles and values of community development including self-help, participation, equity, and sustainability.
- Explain the importance of principles in guiding community development efforts.
- Analyse how these principles and values apply to real-world scenarios in community development initiatives in Nigeria.
- Reflect on your own role in upholding and promoting these values in your community.



4.3 Unveiling the Compass of Community Development

Imagine community development as a journey, (a process that empowers communities to identify their needs, harness their resources, and build a future they envision – people, resources, shared goals, and a collective spirit). To navigate this path effectively, we need a compass, a guiding force that keeps us on track towards our destination. This compass is formed by the core principles and values that underpin successful community development.

Why are Principles and Values Important?

Values are the compass that guides this process. They're the guiding principles that ensure our efforts are ethical, inclusive, and sustainable. Just like a compass wouldn't work without a north star, community development wouldn't thrive without these fundamental principles and values.

4.4 Key Principles and Values

Let's delve into the treasure chest of principles and values that guide successful community development:

- **Self-help and Self-Responsibility:** Communities must take ownership of their development, actively participating in planning and implementation. This fosters a

sense of agency and empowers individuals to take charge of their lives and their shared environment.

- **Participation:** Every voice matters! Community development thrives on inclusivity and active participation. Everyone, regardless of background or status, has the right to contribute their ideas and perspectives to shape their community's future.
- **Equity and Justice:** No one should be left behind. Community development strives for a just and equitable society where everyone has access to opportunities and resources, regardless of their circumstances.
- **Sustainability:** We're not just building for the present, but for generations to come. Sustainability ensures that development efforts consider the long-term environmental, economic, and social impacts, leaving a legacy of thriving communities for future generations.



Figure 6: Community Development Principles

Nigerian Case Studies:

Let's bring these principles to life by exploring real-world examples. Imagine a community in rural Nigeria struggling with limited access to clean water. By adopting the principle of self-help, they could mobilize their resources, organize fundraising events, and collaborate with local NGOs to build a sustainable water purification system.

Self-Assessment Exercises 1

1. Choose a community you know well. Analyze how the principles of self-help, participation, equity, and sustainability are reflected (or not reflected) in its development efforts.

4.4.1 Additional Principles and Values

Beyond the core principles we discussed, many other values guide community development. Here are a few to consider:

- **Social justice:** Upholding fairness and ensuring everyone has equal opportunities and access to resources.
- **Empowerment:** Building skills, confidence, and capacity within communities to manage their own development.
- **Cultural sensitivity:** Recognizing and respecting the unique traditions, beliefs, and practices of each community.
- **Environmental sustainability:** Protecting the environment while meeting the needs of present and future generations.

Click on the link below to get more information on Principles and Values

Link: <https://youtu.be/K0I3KEPxPqY?si=0ch3vT-U21IcgqIT>

4.4.2 Challenges to Applying Principles and Values

- Power imbalances and inequality within communities.
- Lack of resources and capacity building.
- External influences and conflicting interests.
- Sustainability constraints and environmental concerns.

Cultural differences and resistance to change.

Self- Assessment Exercises 2

1. Imagine yourself as a community development facilitator. You're tasked with addressing a specific challenge in a Nigerian community. Choose one of the principles discussed and explain how you would incorporate it into your approach.

Nigerian Case Studies

Let's see these principles at work in Nigerian communities:

- **The Gbediga Women's Cooperative (Social Justice):** A group of women in Gbediga village formed a cooperative to produce and sell shea butter. This provided them with economic independence and challenged ingrained gender inequalities.
- **The Youth Farm Project (Empowerment):** A youth-led initiative in Kaduna trained young people in sustainable farming practices and provided them with land and resources. This empowered them to become financially independent and contribute to local food security.
- **The Interfaith Peacebuilding Dialogue (Cultural Sensitivity):** In Jos, interfaith community leaders facilitated dialogues between Christian and Muslim communities. This helped address cultural misunderstandings and promote peaceful coexistence.
- **The Greenbelt Initiative (Environmental Sustainability):** Communities in the Niger Delta region collaborated to plant trees and restore degraded land. This initiative tackled environmental challenges while creating sustainable livelihoods.

Remember, these are just a few examples to get you started. The beauty of community development lies in its adaptability and its reliance on the unique context of each community.

4.5. Conclusion and Next Step

As we wrap up Unit 2, remember: community development is a shared journey guided by principles and values.

Community development is not a quick fix, but a continuous journey of learning, collaboration, and adaptation. By embracing the power of principles and values, we can build stronger, more resilient communities where everyone thrives. Here are some next steps you can consider:

- **Self-reflection:** Reflect on your own values and how they align with the principles of community development.
- **Community engagement:** Get involved in local initiatives or organizations working on community development.
- **Further learning:** Explore the vast resources available on community development, including books, articles, and online platforms.

Remember, you are not just a learner in this journey; you are a potential agent of change. Let's use these principles and values to build a brighter future for our communities, one step at a time.

Self-Assessment Exercises 3

Think of a cultural practice in your community. How could a community development project incorporate this practice in a respectful and beneficial way?



4.6 Summary

- Community development empowers communities to identify needs, harness resources, and build a better future.
- Core values: self-help, participation, equity, and sustainability.
- Additional values: social justice, empowerment, cultural sensitivity, environmental sustainability.
- Nigerian case studies showcase the application of these principles and values in real-world situations.



4.7 References/Further Readings/Web Resources

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4.8 Possible Answers to SAEs

Choose a community you know well. Analyze how the principles of self-help, participation, participation, equity, and sustainability are reflected (or not reflected) in its development efforts.

Answers to SAEs 1

1. **Self-help:** Look for evidence of community initiatives, volunteerism, fundraising efforts, or local businesses addressing needs. If present, it reflects self-help. Conversely, reliance on outside assistance or lack of local involvement suggests a weaker self-help presence.
2. **Participation:** Observe how decisions are made. Are community members consulted, involved in planning, and represented in leadership positions? High participation indicates strong adherence to this principle, while limited involvement suggests room for improvement.
3. **Equity:** Assess whether resources are distributed fairly within the community. Do all groups have equal access to education, healthcare, and opportunities? If disparities exist, the principle of equity is not fully realized.
4. **Sustainability:** Analyze how development efforts consider environmental impact, resource conservation, and long-term viability. Renewable energy projects, environmental protection initiatives, and responsible resource management indicate a focus on sustainability. Conversely, depletion of resources or disregard for environmental consequences suggests a weaker commitment.

Remember: Your analysis should be nuanced and consider the specific context of the community.

- 2.. Imagine yourself as a community development facilitator. You're tasked with addressing a specific challenge in a Nigerian community. Choose one of the principles discussed and explain how you would incorporate it into your approach.

Answers to SAEs 2

- **Empowerment:** You could train community members on problem-solving skills, leadership development, and project management. Encourage local ownership of the solution and capacity building to ensure long-term sustainability.
- **Collaboration:** Facilitate partnerships between community members, local NGOs, government agencies, and private sector stakeholders. Leverage diverse strengths and resources to find comprehensive solutions.

- **Innovation:** Encourage exploration of creative approaches, adaptation of existing solutions, and pilot testing of new ideas. Foster an environment that embraces experimentation and learning from challenges.
- **Local Knowledge and Wisdom:** Prioritize understanding and incorporating traditional practices, cultural values, and indigenous knowledge into the development process. Respect local expertise and build solutions that resonate with the community.

1. Choose a social issue in your community. How can the principles of equality, equity, social justice, and inclusivity be applied to address this issue through community development initiatives?

Answers to SAEs 3

- **Equality:** Advocate for equal rights and opportunities for all community members, regardless of background, identity, or status. Organize awareness campaigns, lobby for policy changes, and provide equal access to resources and services.
- **Equity:** Design interventions that address the root causes of inequality and ensure everyone has the same chance to thrive. Invest in marginalized communities, provide targeted support to those facing disadvantages, and create a level playing field for all.
- **Social Justice:** Challenge systems of oppression and discrimination that contribute to the social issue. Promote fair treatment, advocate for systemic change, and empower communities to fight for their rights.
- **Inclusivity:** Actively involve all members of the affected community in planning, decision-making, and implementation of solutions. Create accessible programmes and services, break down barriers to participation, and celebrate diversity.

Remember, these are just examples, and the specific application of principles will depend on the chosen social issue and community context. What is important is for you to be creative and think critically about how to apply these values in your own community projects.

Module 2: INTRODUCTION TO ISSUES AND TRENDS IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Unit 1: Overview of Current trends in Community Development

Unit Structure

- 1.1 Introduction
- 1.2 Learning Outcomes
- 1.3 Main Content
 - Introduction to Trends in Community Development; Historical trends, Policies, and the Players
 - 1.3.1 Defining the Landscape
 - 1.3.2 Historical Trends and Shifts in Approach
- 1.4 How Policies Shape Community Strategies
 - 1.4.1 Importance of Partnerships in Community Development
- 1.5 Conclusion
- 1.6 Summary
- 1.7 References/Further Readings/Web Resources
- 1.8 Possible Answers to Self-Assessment Exercise(s)



1.1 Introduction

Welcome to Module Two Unit 1: Introduction to Trends in Community Development. This unit is essential for gaining a comprehensive understanding of community development and its multifaceted nature. We will closely examine the evolution of the approaches, policies and key players that have shaped the field over the past half-century.

Throughout this unit, we will see how public policies and available resources influence community development practices and the dynamic interplay among various stakeholders in this arena. From federal, state, and local government agencies to local and international

nonprofit organizations and individuals, each entity playing a pivotal role in shaping the community development landscape.

In the latter part of this unit, we will shift our focus to the landscape of Community Development in Nigeria. We will explore the policies and practices shaping this field and acquaint ourselves with the diverse array of individuals and organizations actively involved. Understanding these trends and factors is crucial because it equips you with the knowledge needed to effectively address your community's distinct needs and formulate impactful projects.



1.2 Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, you will be able to:

- Identify and understand the roles of key players in community development, both globally and within the Nigerian context.
- Understand how public policies influence community development practices.
- Appreciate the roles played by different actors, including government agencies, NGOs, and community organizations, in shaping community development initiatives.
- Identify the prominent trends and various actors involved in community development within the Nigerian context.
- Develop your own ideas and strategies to make a positive contribution to your community's development, taking into account current trends and local needs.



1.3 Introduction to Trends in Community Development; Historical trends, Policies, and the Players

The landscape of Community Development (CD) has evolved significantly over the past century, shaped by varying public policies, approaches and resource availability. Before we explore each of these constructs and the unique perspectives, they bring to community development, let us begin by establishing a strong foundation with definition of some key terms:

1.3.1 Defining the Landscape

1. Community Development: The process of empowering communities to identify their needs, mobilize resources, and implement solutions to improve their quality of life.
2. Trends: Emerging patterns and directions in community development practices, influenced by factors like policy shifts, technological advancements, and social movements.
3. Players: The individuals and organizations involved in community development, such as government agencies, NGOs, community-based organizations, and private sector actors.
4. Policies: The guiding principles and frameworks established by government or other institutions that shape community development activities.

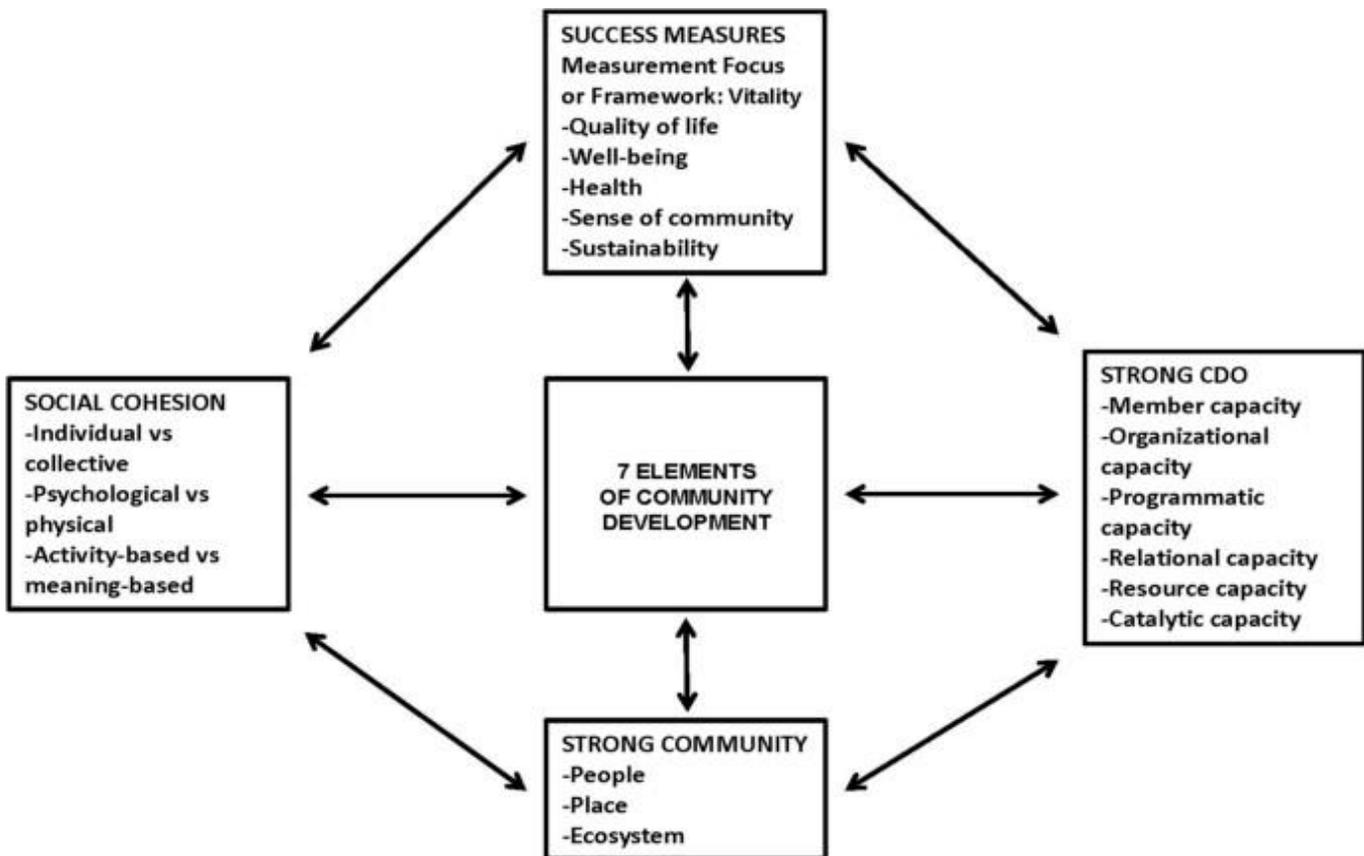


Figure 7: Element of Community Development

1.3.2 Historical Trends and Shifts in Approach

In this section, we'll explore the evolution of community development and look at how the approach to community development have shifted over time. To lay the groundwork for our conversation, let's first take a look at the core approaches to Community Development to get a better sense of these changes,

1.3.2 .1 Introduction to the Core Approaches to Community Development

This section of Module Two, Unit 1, delves into the foundational approaches to community development, each with its unique strategies and objectives. Understanding these approaches is crucial for grasping the diverse methods employed in fostering community growth and addressing local issues.

1. Technical Assistance Approach: Leveraging Expertise for Targeted Change

What is the Technical Assistance Approach? The technical assistance approach in community development involves utilizing specialized knowledge in areas such as agriculture, health, education, and industry to design and implement targeted change programmes. This approach typically sees a technical expert conducting a needs assessment and designing focused intervention projects, often infrastructure-related (Chapter 4).

Case Study: The Role of Technical Assistance in Infrastructure Development

This case study will explore how technical assistance has been pivotal in developing critical infrastructure, showcasing a specific project where this approach led to significant community enhancements.

2. Self-Help Approach: Empowering Communities to Address Their Issues

What is the Self-Help Approach? The self-help approach emphasizes the power of community members coming together to address their problems and improve their situations. It involves local people learning and applying skills to define and act on their interests, often with the support of local professionals and businesses (Chapter 5).

Case Study: Community-Led Initiatives in Addressing Local Concerns We'll examine a scenario where a community self-organizes to tackle a local issue, highlighting the process and outcomes of this grassroots effort.

3. **Conflict Approach: Focusing on Power Dynamics and Confrontation**

This approach focuses on empowering communities through organizing, particularly addressing issues of poverty and powerlessness. It assumes confronting wealthier or more powerful groups is often necessary to achieve community goals (Korten, 1980; Stoecker, 2009; Gittell & Vidal, 1998).

Case Study: Community Organizing for Justice and Democracy. This case study will delve into how a community used organizing to confront and overcome challenges, emphasizing the power dynamics involved.

4. **Tensions Among Approaches**

Rural vs. Urban Emphasis in Community Development Approaches Different approaches to community development have historically been more prevalent in either rural or urban settings. In rural areas, self-help and technical assistance are dominant, often documented by rural sociologists. Urban areas typically see more technical assistance and conflict approaches, with their efficacy documented by political scientists and urban studies researchers (Orr, 2007; Rubin & Rubin, 2007; Smock, 2003).

Perspectives on Community Development vs. Community Organizing There's an inherent tension between community development and community organizing, with the former focusing on comprehensive development within the existing political-economic system and the latter emphasizing the lack of common interests between different social groups (Stoecker, 2003; Fisher & Shragge, 2000).



Figure 8: Approaches to Community Development

1.3.3 Key Historical Milestones

- **Early 20th Century** marked the inception of structured community development and the beginning of community foundations.
- **1950s-1960s** saw a shifts in focus from social services to housing, commercial, and economic development were observed, especially in community foundations.
- **1970s-1980s** marked emergence of Community Development Corporations (CDCs) and increased government engagement in community development, particularly through funding and programme creation.
- **1990s:** Expansion of CDCs' roles to include broader community needs like workforce development and community facilities programmes.

B. The Community Development System

Community Development thrive on networks of support, and ecosystem. In this section, we'll identify some of the Key Players, in this ecosystem, including Government, Community Development Corporations (CDCs), Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) etc.

1.3.4 Players in the Community Development System

1. **Federal Government Agencies and their Directiveness in Community Development** The role of federal government agencies in community development has been historically significant and multifaceted. Federal government agencies through various programmes and funding mechanisms have long shaped community development. The nature of Federal involvement has been characterized by fluctuations, often responding to crises and the influences of interest groups (Phifer, List, & Faulkner, 1989; Summers, 1986). This involvement, while directive and project-based, has not consistently integrated projects into an overarching vision for community development. Federal programmes have created complex interdependencies among government levels, the private sector, and communities, shaping community development efforts at all levels (Summers, 1986).
2. **State and Local Governments:** These authorities significantly shape community development through their plans and policies and incentives, like state housing initiatives economic development programmes and environmental justice considerations, have a big effect on how communities grow and change. These governments have a big say in who can get federal funds and their management of federal funds and how those funds affect community development and overall impact, whether beneficial or detrimental, on community progress is considerable.
3. **Community Development Corporations (CDCs):** Initially small charitable groups and grassroots movements, CDCs have grown into integral parts of the community development network, closely linked with government, philanthropic, and religious organizations. They are central to enhancing housing, business growth, and community amenities. Notable studies, such as Vidal's "Rebuilding Communities" and Walker's look at CDCs in 23 cities show how important they are for revitalizing neighbourhoods.
4. **Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs):** These financial bodies, encompassing community banks and credit unions, are pivotal in delivering financial services to underprivileged areas, expanding economic opportunities and

microbusiness support. The creation of the CDFI Fund and initiatives like the New Markets Tax Credit underscore their influence on State and National community development policies.

5. **National Intermediaries:** Groups like the Local Initiatives Support Corporation and the Enterprise Foundation are two organizations that help local CDCs by giving them money, advocacy, and support. They play a key role in channelling national funding to local CDCs and setting standards for performance. It is very important for the system to work that they get national funds to local levels and set performance standards for CDCs.
6. **Nonprofits and private foundations:** Private foundations have been very important to community development by giving money, doing research, and starting large-scale community projects. Nonprofits, such as neighbourhood groups and faith-based organizations, make substantial contributions to community development through partnerships and direct involvement in communities.
7. **Community-Based Development Organizations (CBDOs):** CBDOs prioritize conflict resolution, community organizing, and capacity building, focusing on empowerment, social, and economic justice. These organizations, such as the Industrial Areas Foundation, are driven by local needs and interests. Their work is significantly influenced by financial resources and partnerships within the community development system (Vidal, Freiberg, Otchere-Agyei, & Saunders, 1999).

Key Points:

- Focus on conflict resolution, empowerment, and capacity building.
 - Driven by local interests and needs (Vidal et al., 1999).
 - Importance of financial resources and partnerships.
8. **For-Profit Firms in Community Development:** For-profit firms, including banks and commercial developers, significantly influence community development. Their role under the Community Reinvestment Act mandates reinvestment in communities,

contributing to community development through various programmes and funding, impacting both service demand and overall economic development.

Key Points:

- Role of banks and other for-profit firms in funding and directing community development.
- Influence under the Community Reinvestment Act.
- Contribution to community improvement programmes and economic development.

9. **Professional Associations in Community Development:** Professional associations have emerged as crucial players in the community development field. They provide training, certification, and coordination for practitioners, marking the professionalization and maturation of the sector. Organizations like the Community Development Society and the National Congress for Community Economic Development play a pivotal role in linking private, nonprofit, and academic sectors, offering a platform for coordination and standard setting in community development practices. (Christenson & Robinson, 1980).

Key Points:

- Role in training, certification, and coordination.
- Indicators of the sector's professionalization (Christenson & Robinson, 1980).
- Linking different sectors and setting standards in community development.

10. **Universities and Academic Contributions to Community Development:**

Universities contribute significantly to the field of community development through research and academic discourse. Disciplines such as economics, sociology, and political science offer varied perspectives, on community development, influencing both theory and practice. Academic studies have explored the interplay between community development and factors like public health and race politics, contributing

to a deeper understanding of community development. (Israel, Schulz, Parker, & Becker, 1998; Bonds, 2004; Carr and Servon, 2009).

Key Points:

- Varied disciplinary perspectives on community development.
- Contribution to theory and practice through research (Israel et al., 1998; Bonds, 2004; Carr and Servon, 2009).
- Influence on understanding complex factors in community development.

All of these groups – federal government agencies, CBDOs, for-profit firms, professional associations, and universities – collectively form a comprehensive ecosystem that shapes and drives community development. Their work together shapes current dynamics and drives the advancement of community development strategies. Anyone engaged in or studying the field of community development, needs to understand their roles and effects and how these factors affect people individually and as a group. Their interaction shapes the present situation and guides the growth of community development methods.

Self-Assessment Exercises 1

Multiple Choice (10 questions):

1. Which of the following is NOT a core approach to community development?
 - a) Technical Assistance Approach
 - b) Self-Help Approach
 - c) Conflict Approach
 - d) Environmental Advocacy Approach (Note: This is not a core approach within the provided information)

2. What historical period saw the rise of Community Development Corporations (CDCs)?
 - a) Early 20th Century
 - b) 1950s-1960s
 - c) 1970s-1980s

C. Policy Influences and Trends

1.4 How Policies Shape Community Strategies

- **Policy Influences and Trends:** Policies form the framework within which community initiatives operate. Policies at the national, sub-national, and local levels can have a significant impact on the direction and focus of community development projects and strategies. Often dictating resource allocation, direction of efforts, and approaches to be used.
- **Resource Allocation:** Policies dictate where and how funds are distributed, which has a direct impact on what community projects can be launched or sustained. For example, federal funding can promote the development of certain types of projects over others, as evidenced by the historical shift in focus based on federal program priorities.
- **Guiding Principles:** Policies frequently specify the goals and objectives of community development initiatives. They may emphasize specific aspects such as affordable housing, environmental sustainability, or economic empowerment, which will guide community organizations' strategies.
- **Regulatory Framework:** Policies establish the rules and guidelines for community development initiatives. Zoning laws, building codes, and compliance regulations all have an impact on how community development is carried out in practice.
- **Funding and Policy Priorities Change:** The fluctuation of public policies has a significant impact on community development (CD). As funding availability and policy priorities shift, so do the strategies and priorities of community development initiatives. For instance, the availability of federal funds has frequently directed local government actions to specific program areas, sometimes at the expense of community-defined priorities (Phifer et al., 1989). This reliance on government funds can also harm local initiatives, as communities may postpone actions in anticipation of external funding.

- **State and Local Governments** not only manage access to federal funds, but they also shape the nature and scope of community development in their jurisdictions through specific policies and programs. The focus of state economic development programs, whether on housing initiatives or business growth, can have a significant impact on the growth or decline of communities and shape the trajectory of community development.
- Understanding these policy influences is critical for anyone working on community development. It enables a strategic approach to leveraging available resources and navigating the complexities of policy implications for local communities.

Click on the link to get information on **Community Development Models and Strategies**

https://youtu.be/t0s2245X_Mo?si=I454pe9IIUNqn-Kr

D. The Power of Collaboration and Networking

1.4.1 Importance of Partnerships in Community Development

The complex nature of community issues necessitates collaboration, collective effort, and networking of various stakeholders to form the backbone of effective community development. This shift towards collaborative networks has been critical for building capacity and broadening the scope of community development efforts (Walker, 2002). Stakeholders, including community-based development organizations (CBDOs), community development corporations (CDCs), nonprofit organizations, and private foundations, each bring unique perspectives, resources, and expertise. CDCs, for example, have evolved to follow a model based on key relationships with government, philanthropy, and faith-based organizations.

- **Community Involvement and Empowerment:** This is a comprehensive approach. Engaging a diverse range of stakeholders, particularly community members, ensures that development projects are based on local needs and perspectives. This approach promotes a sense of ownership and empowerment among community members, which is critical for the long-term success and sustainability of development efforts. CBDOs, in particular, focus on community organizing and empowerment, relying heavily on partnerships for financial resources and support.

- **Resource Sharing:** When it comes to collaborative efforts, resource sharing can amplify the impact of limited resources, allowing for larger or more complex initiatives. These collaborations allow for the pooling of resources, whether financial, human, or informational, resulting in more impactful and long-term community development initiatives.
- **Private foundations** use research and targeted funding to highlight the power of collaboration in fostering community development initiatives and strengthening community development efforts. Similar to the Comprehensive Community Initiative.
- **Expertise and Knowledge Exchange:** This collaboration brings together a wide range of knowledge and expertise. This resulted in the development of best practices and more effective community development strategies.

To summarize, effective community development requires a network of diverse yet interconnected players. Recognizing the importance of collaboration and networking is critical for maximizing resources, knowledge, and community engagement. Understanding the impact of policies on community development strategies, as well as harnessing the power of these collaborations, enables communities to effectively address local needs and challenges, resulting in empowerment, comprehensive, and sustainable development outcomes.



Figure 9: Partnership

Click on the link to get more information on Community Development through Partnership

<https://youtu.be/I8DwW4eINNg?si=CuYbSIY5MhJ0vIeh>

Self-Assessment Exercise 2

1. How do state and local government policies influence community development initiatives?
 - a) By determining resource allocation and project focus.
 - b) By establishing regulatory frameworks and compliance requirements.
 - c) Both a and b.
 - d) None of the above.

2. Which type of player in the community development system focuses on conflict resolution and empowerment?
 - a) Federal Government Agencies
 - b) Community Development Corporations (CDCs)
 - c) Community-Based Development Organizations (CBDOs)
 - d) For-Profit Firms

True/False (5 questions):

1. The Technical Assistance Approach emphasizes community self-reliance and local solutions.
2. Public policies have minimal impact on the direction and strategies of community development projects.
3. Collaboration and networking are crucial for maximizing resources and knowledge in community development.
4. The Community Reinvestment Act mandates banks and developers to solely prioritize community development initiatives.
5. Universities and academic research have no contribution to understanding complex factors in community development.

1.5 Conclusion

- We explored the evolution of community development approaches, policies, and key players.
- We examined how public policies shape project focus and resource allocation in community development.
- We learned about the diverse actors involved, from government agencies to NGOs and community organizations.
- We gained insight into developing strategies to contribute to our communities, considering trends and local needs.



1.6 Summary

- This unit delved into the historical shifts and core approaches in community development.
- We explored the roles of key players like government agencies, CDCs, and CBDOs in shaping community initiatives.
- We examined the influence of policies on resource allocation and project focus.
- The importance of collaboration and networking for effective community development was emphasized.



1.7 References/Further Readings/Web Resources

Phifer, List, & Faulkner, 1989; Summers, 1986 - On federal government's role in community development.

Walker, 2002 - Importance of collaboration and networking in community development.

Christenson & Robinson, 1980; Israel et al., 1998; Bonds, 2004; Carr and Servon, 2009 - Contributions of academic research to community development.



1.8 Possible Answers to SAEs

Possible Answer to SAE 1

1. Which of the following is NOT a core approach to community development? (D)
2. What historical period saw the rise of Community Development Corporations (CDCs)? (D)

Possible Answer to SAE 2

1. How do state and local government policies influence community development initiatives? (C)
2. Which type of player in the community development system focuses on conflict resolution and empowerment? (C)

True/False (5 questions):

1. False
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. False

Unit 2: The Landscape of Community Development in Nigeria & Development Agencies in Nigeria

Unit Structure

- 2.1 Introduction
- 2.2 Learning Outcomes
- 2.3 Main Content- The Evolution of Community Development in Nigeria: A Journey Through Time
- 2.4 Policy Frameworks, Influence and Trends: Policy Frameworks and their Influence
- 2.5 Conclusion
- 2.6 Summary
- 2.7 References/Further Readings/Web Resources
- 2.8 Possible Answers to Self-Assessment Exercise(s)



2.0 Introduction

This unit focuses on the landscape of community development in Nigeria and the development agencies involved, specifically it explores the unique Nigerian perspective, examining the roles of different actors, from government agencies to NGOs and community organizations, in shaping community development. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for understanding how community development has transformed over time, influenced by various policies, players, and historical events. Anyone working in community development—from residents to practitioners to policymakers—must have a firm grasp of these trends and the various players in order to plan and execute community projects that effectively address societal needs while also responding to specific local trends.



2.2 Learning Outcomes (LOs)

By the end of this unit, students should be able to:

- Understand the evolution of community development approaches in Nigeria.
- Identify the key players in community development in Nigeria.

- Understand how public policies shape project focus and resource allocation in community development in Nigeria.
- Recognize the diverse actors involved, from government agencies to NGOs and community organizations.
- Develop strategies to contribute to our communities, considering trends and local needs.



2.3 Main Content

2.3.1 The Evolution of Community Development in Nigeria: A Journey Through Time

There is a long tradition of community development in Nigeria, and it is still an important aspect of the country's progress today. It is as old as humankind, with evidence that people have always engaged in one form or another of development to function more effectively in society (Ramsey-Soroghay, 2021).

In this section, we'll trace the transformation of community development in Nigeria through different historical periods; from the vibrant roots of pre-colonial self-help initiatives to the contemporary focus on sustainability and collaboration, each marked by distinct approaches and challenges, highlighting the evolving priorities that have shaped its path.

2.3.1.2. Pre-Colonial and Colonial Community Development



Figure 10: Colonial infrastructure project in Nigeria- Kainji Dam

Initially, Nigerian community development revolved around collective efforts and traditional practices. Community development was deeply rooted in traditional communal living and self-help initiative, which laid the foundation for community development. Communities worked together in activities like farming and building markets, with age-grade systems playing a key role in maintaining social order and contributing to communal projects.

- Efforts like construction of local infrastructure. Age-grade systems played a crucial role in regulating youth behavior and contributing to community development efforts, such as bush clearing and construction of homes and relaxation centers. This era was marked by a strong sense of community and collective action, vital for sustenance and prosperity (Idode, 1989; Ijere, 1987).
- **Approaches:**
 - Strong emphasis on communal living and self-help initiatives.
 - Collective efforts in farming, market building, and local infrastructure construction.
 - Age-grade systems for youth regulation and community development contributions.
- **Challenges:**
 - Limited access to resources and technology compared to later periods.
 - Potential for exploitation by external forces due to lack of centralized governance.

2.3.1.3 Colonial Era: Shifting Priorities and Uneven Growth

The advent of British colonial rule brought significant shifts to community development in Nigeria. Under British rule, the focus turned to exploiting rural resources and setting up infrastructure serving colonial interests, while also introducing missionary education and healthcare. The establishment of missionary schools and hospitals catered to basic needs but also served colonial objectives. The Colonial government's Township Ordinance Act in 1917 further dictated the development course, often neglecting the needs of rural areas and creating a divide in infrastructural development. As a result, rural needs were often sidelined,

creating an urban-rural development gap. (Nseabasi, 2012; Olayiwola & Adeleye, 2005; Skinner, 2010).

- Approaches:
 - Shift towards exploiting rural areas for raw materials and establishing infrastructure for colonial interests.
 - Introduction of missionary schools and hospitals for basic needs and colonial objectives.
 - Township Ordinance Act dictated development course, often neglecting rural areas.
- Challenges:
 - Loss of traditional communal autonomy and focus on colonial priorities.
 - Uneven development, with rural areas lagging behind urban centers.
 - Dependency on colonial structures and limited local participation.

2.3.1.4 Post-Independence Community Development: A Quest for Self-Reliance with Mixed Results

Following its independence in 1960, Nigeria made efforts to become more self-sufficient and advance nationally. Following independence, the government launched a number of programmes and initiatives aimed at promoting self-help and national development. After gaining independence in 1960, Nigeria's government emphasized self-sufficiency. Communities were meant to be empowered by agricultural, educational, and healthcare-focused programs like Better Life for Rural Women and Operation Feed the Nation. Community development focus on government-led initiatives, rural development programmes, and the rise of NGOs. However, challenges like corruption, inadequate implementation, and a lack of scientific understanding of rural dynamics hampered their effectiveness (Akhimien, Adamolekun & Isiwele, 2017; Johnson & Ifeoma, 2018).

- Approaches:
 - Renewed emphasis on national development and self-help through government programmes.
 - Focus on areas like agriculture, health, and education for rural development.
 - Attempts to mobilize people and utilize local resources.

- Challenges:
 - Corruption and mismanagement of resources hindering programme effectiveness.
 - Lack of comprehensive implementation and disconnect between government plans and local needs.
 - Neglect of scientific studies on rural communities leading to ineffective interventions.



Figure 11: School development project in Karu, Abuja, Nigeria

2.3.1.5 Contemporary Era: Collaboration, Sustainability, and Technology take Center Stage

Today, a new wave of community development is washing over Nigeria. Participation, sustainability, and collaboration have taken center stage as top-down approaches have been demonstrated to have limitations. Participatory methods are now the norm in Nigerian community development, with a focus on long-term viability, technological advancement, and collaboration between public and private organizations. This approach seeks to address a spectrum of social and economic challenges through joint efforts and community

involvement. Local communities are actively involved in identifying their needs and shaping solutions. NGOs, private sector actors, and the government are increasingly working together, leveraging technology to improve communication, resource management, and project monitoring -in a shift towards more participatory approaches in community development.

Contemporary initiatives like the Rural Access and Mobility Project (RAMP) and the Community-Led Infrastructure Development (CLID) program exemplify this collaborative spirit, aiming to address issues like rural road access and sanitation through collective action. As well as to address a wide range of social and economic issues through collaborative efforts and active community participation (Craig, 2014; Ramsey-Soroghaye 2021).

- Approaches:
 - Shift towards participatory approaches with emphasis on sustainability and technology integration.
 - Collaboration among government, NGOs, and the private sector for broader community involvement.
 - Focus on addressing diverse social and economic issues through collaborative efforts.
- Challenges:
 - Balancing traditional practices with modern development approaches.
 - Building trust and ensuring equitable participation among diverse community stakeholders.
 - Sustaining project outcomes and ensuring long-term impact.



Figure 12: Community meeting with government officials and NGOs

Building stronger communities in Nigeria has evolved over the years. Throughout history, people have collaborated in various capacities, from the pre-colonial era's emphasis on community and shared purpose to the decades following independence, and finally to the present day's emphasis on sustainability, technology, and teamwork. This dissection demonstrates how community development in Nigeria has evolved over time, with each era influencing how the country seeks to assist its citizens. It's as if you could watch a community evolve and change throughout its history, with each era adding to its intricate fabric. There is still a long way to go in Nigeria's community development journey, but the lessons learned, and collaborative spirit provide hope for what lies ahead. If Nigerian communities work together, they can learn from history, embrace change, and build a better future for all.

Additional Resources:

- Watch this video showcasing a social and community development in Nigeria:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QU8_cE5ptHI
- Explore the website of the Rural Development Agency of Nigeria (RURALDA):
<http://academicpower.blogspot.com/2017/08/agencies-of-rural-development-in-nigeria.html>
- Read this article on ICT for Rural Community Development: Implementing the Communicative Ecology Framework in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria:
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02681102.2015.1007819>

2.3.2 Key Players in Community Development in Nigeria



Figure 13: Examples of Key Players in Community Development in Nigeria

Community development in Nigeria would not be possible without the contributions of various groups many stakeholders (Ramsey-Soroghaye, 2021) In this unit, we will look at how different entities shaping community development in Nigeria. In particular the role of

government agencies in policy design and resource allocation, contributions of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community organizations (CBOs), the private sector through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, and academic institutions' research, training, and technical support.

2.3.2.1 Government Agencies: Setting the Stage for Progress

Government agencies in Nigeria play a pivotal role in community development. Government bodies, like Federal Ministries' of; Health, Education, Humanitarian & Social Development, Agriculture and Rural Development; are at the forefront of these efforts and are central to community development in Nigeria. They set policies and outline priorities like infrastructure development, poverty reduction, and healthcare access. allocate resources and provide technical support through ministries and agencies like the They formulate policies and implement projects that significantly impact community growth and sustainability, like the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) that guide community development efforts across the country.

Their role also extends from policy formulation to the hands-on implementation of various community projects. Think of them as the architects, designing blueprints for initiatives like rural electrification projects or agricultural development programmes that directly impact community well-being.

On the ground, various agencies of government are also implementing Government programmes and ensuring communities reap the benefits. (Ramsey-Soroghaye (2021); Onodugo (2012).

2.3.2.2 NGOs and Community Organizations

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and community groups play an important role in Nigeria's grassroots development. They put plans into action, raise funds, and advocate for what the community requires. Education, health, and women's advancement are three areas where their contributions are critical. ActionAid Nigeria and CDPI are two organizations that have made significant contributions to their fields. **Community-based organizations (CBOs)**, such as the Community Youth Development Network (CYDN) and the National

Council of Women Societies (NCWS), advocate for local communities and frequently focus their efforts on specific issues, such as youth development or environmental conservation. They do the actual heavy lifting, collaborating with locals to assess problems and find solutions. They advocate for communities and ensure that their needs are met.

2.3.2.3 Private Sector Involvement

The private sector's role in community development, particularly through CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) programs, is growing in importance.

Businesses in Nigeria, such as Unilever and Chevron, connect business resources with community needs by providing capital, knowledge, and fresh ideas. Financial assistance, professional knowledge, and creative ideas are all beneficial to community development projects. Chevron has built clean water wells in Nigerian communities, and Unilever has provided hygiene education workshops. Imagine them as adoring spectators cheering on the performers. Their participation strengthens community initiatives and helps to bring the corporate world closer to the society in which they operate and beyond.

2.3.2.4 Academic Institutions: Setting the Standard with Expertise and Knowledge

Academic institutions are critical to community development because they conduct research, provide training programs, and provide technical assistance. Consider universities like Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) and the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) to be wise advisors in community development. They conduct research to identify community problems and devise workable solutions. They also teach new professionals how to do community development to ensure that it continues to exist in the future. Nigeria's academic institutions play an important role in community development. NOUN, for example, provides online courses on the subject, while ABU provides technical assistance to local non-governmental organizations.

Many different groups collaborate in community development; for example, government agencies develop policies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) carry them out, businesses participate through corporate social responsibility initiatives, and academic institutions provide research and new ideas. Regardless of the varied landscape, the

community thrives when everyone contributes. By learning about these key players and their impact, we can effectively drive community development project in our communities.

Additional Resources:

- Video: Watch is short video showcasing the work of NGOs: [What is NGO? What is the meaning of NGO| Types of NGOs| Characteristics of NGOs. \(youtube.com\)](#)
- Website: Explore the website of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture Rural Development for more information on their initiatives: <https://fmard.gov.ng/>
- Article: Read this article about the role of the private sector in community development in Nigeria: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/05/the-role-of-the-private-sector-in-community-development/>

Self-Assessment Exercises 1

Quiz on Community Development Players and Policies:

1. Identify three key players in the Nigerian community development landscape and their roles.
2. Describe how federal policies can impact community development initiatives.

2.4 Policy Frameworks, Influence and Trends: Policy Frameworks and their Influence

Community development in Nigeria has been shaped by various policy frameworks, influencing the direction and focus of development initiatives. In this section we will look into the progression of policy frameworks and their impact on shaping communities and community development practice and to appreciate the complexity of policies as they evolved over time. These policies include:

- **National Development Plan (NDP):** The NDP is a strategic plan by the Nigerian government that outlines long-term priorities for economic and social development,

including community development initiatives. Imagine this as the country's blueprint for progress. Every few years, the government lays out its long-term priorities for things like economic growth, education, and yes, community development. It serves as a roadmap for national progress, guiding the allocation of resources and setting the agenda for local and regional development projects. Think of it as a roadmap for where resources should flow and what kind of projects local communities can expect to see.

- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):**



Figure 14: United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 17

These aren't just Nigerian goals; they're global targets set by the United Nations, for tackling big. social, economic, and environmental challenges like poverty, hunger, and climate change, which inform community development projects. Nigeria has signed up for these goals, meaning community development projects should be geared towards sustainable and inclusive growth, addressing issues like poverty, poverty, hunger, inequality education, and environmental sustainability. Think clean water, access to healthcare, and protecting the environment for future generations. The SDGs has a shared mission statement, guiding communities towards a future where everyone thrives. Making sure everyone has a fair shot at a good life, not just a select few.

- **State and Local Government Policies:**

While the NDP and SDGs paint the broad picture, state and local government policies translate them into actionable steps on the ground. These policies play a crucial role in implementing national directives at the local level. They adapt national policies to the specific needs of each region, focusing on areas like healthcare, education, and infrastructure development. So, if a state is struggling with rural development, their policies might focus on building roads, schools, and markets in smaller communities. Think closer to home, like your state government prioritizing fixing local roads or your LGA council investing in a new skill acquisition centre. Think of these policies as local maps, guiding investments and projects to address the unique challenges and opportunities of each community.

The success of these policies depends on the effective collaboration between different levels of government and the community.

2.4.1 Public Policies and Community Development in Action

In Nigeria, community empowerment has been marked by significant shifts. In particular, there's been a big shift towards involving communities themselves in deciding what needs to be done. This means less top-down government projects and more focus on self-help initiatives where people take ownership of their own development. This has shaped the focus and direction of community development significantly.

Post-independence, a move towards participatory approaches gained momentum, with an emphasis on self-help initiatives and national development. Several factors, such as government programs for rural development and the rise of non-governmental organizations, have contributed to this shift (NGOs). Individuals can now direct their own destinies thanks to national development programs and self-help initiatives, which have replaced the traditional top-down decision-making practice.

Consider things like SURE-P and other government-led programs, the National Rural Development Policy, the National Directorate of Employment (NDE), and NAPEP, among others (Ramsey-Soroghaye, 2021). All of these programs strive to provide communities

with the resources, knowledge, and abilities they require so that they can prosper and take charge of their own development. You could look into farmer's cooperatives, community cleanup days, and village savings groups. Think village savings groups, community clean-up days, and local farmers cooperatives. Of course, it's not always smooth sailing. Challenges remain.

2.4.2 Challenges and Opportunities:

Remember, policies are just words on paper unless they're put into action.

As the Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN) reports highlight, good intentions sometimes get caught in implementation bottlenecks. Corruption, weak implementation, inconsistent focus, inadequate funding, bureaucratic hurdles and a lack of sustained focus, have often hampered the effectiveness of these policies and hindered progress (Johnson and Ifeoma (2018) and Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN) 2010).

These challenges often lead to incomplete or inefficiently executed projects. However, there are opportunities for future development, such as leveraging technology, engaging more with international organizations, and fostering public-private partnerships for better resource utilization and innovative solutions.

But there's also good news! Despite the hurdles, the future of community development in Nigeria is brimming with possibilities. Here are some key areas for optimism:

- Technology is playing a bigger role in connecting communities and making sure resources reach the right people. Such as online platforms where communities can track project progress, report issues, and hold officials accountable. Initiatives like the Open Government Partnership (OGP) are harnessing it to improve transparency and citizen participation in development projects.
- Partnerships with international organizations and private companies are bringing fresh ideas and funding to community projects. For instance, The World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) offer valuable resources and expertise. By partnering with them, communities can access knowledge, funding, and best practices to accelerate their development projects.

- Public-Private Partnerships between the government, private sector, and civil society organizations for resources and innovative solutions. Imagine businesses investing in local infrastructure projects, NGOs providing training and skills development, and government agencies facilitating collaboration – this is the power of partnerships, and it holds immense promise for Community Development in Nigerian communities.

Remember: Understanding the interplay between policy, challenges, and opportunities is important for anyone involved in community development. By navigating these dynamics effectively, you have the tools and support needed to build embark on you community development project.



Figure 15: Examples of International Organizations

Self-Assessment Exercises 2

Reflective Case Study Analysis:

1. Examine a Nigerian community development project. Reflect on the roles played by different stakeholders and the impact of government policies on the project's outcome.

2.5 Conclusion

In this unit, we've journeyed through the landscape of community development in Nigeria, understanding its evolution, key players, and the influence of policies. We've seen how different approaches and strategies have shaped the community development sector in Nigeria and the importance of tailoring these strategies to local contexts and needs.



2.6 Summary

- Explored the evolution of community development in Nigeria, from pre-colonial times to the present.
- Examined the roles of government agencies, NGOs, community organizations, and the private sector.
- Analyzed the impact of public policies on community development.
- Discussed strategies for effective community engagement and development in Nigeria.



2.7 References/Further Readings/Web Resources

Phifer, List, & Faulkner, 1989; Summers, 1986 - On federal government's role in community development.

Walker, 2002 - Importance of collaboration and networking in community development.

Christenson & Robinson, 1980; Israel et al., 1998; Bonds, 2004; Carr and Servon, 2009 - Contributions of academic research to community development.

Additional resources: "Community Development in Nigeria: History, Challenges, and Prospects" - An insightful resource for understanding the specific context of community development in Nigeria.



2.8 Possible Answers to SAEs

Answer to SAE 1

Quiz Answers:

1. Key Players: Government agencies (policy implementation), NGOs (grassroots initiatives), and CDFIs (financial support).
2. Federal policies impact through funding allocation and setting development priorities.

Answer to SAE 2

Reflective Case Study Analysis:

A successful Nigerian community project would typically involve collaboration between local government, NGOs, and community leaders. Government policies might have influenced the project through funding or regulatory frameworks.

Unit 3: Introduction to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) & Development Agencies in Nigeria

Unit structure

- 3.1 Introduction
- 3.2 Learning Outcomes (LOs)
- 3.3 Main Content- Overview of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- 3.4 Institutional Frameworks
- 3.5 Conclusion
- 3.6 Summary
- 3.7 References/Further Readings/Web Resources
- 3.8 Possible Answers to Self-Assessment Exercise(s)



3.0 Introduction

Welcome to Module 2 Unit 3: Introduction to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



Why are the SDGs so important for Community Development?

Nigeria's development strategies are aligned with the SDGs, which demonstrate a commitment to these global objectives (OSSAP-SDGS 2020). The SDGs serve as a comprehensive blueprint and roadmap for community development. Everyone involved in community development, from learners to residents to practitioners to policymakers, must understand how we can collaborate to plan and execute community projects that effectively address societal needs while also responding

to specific needs for more sustainable and prosperous communities and a better future for all Nigerians, with the SDGs serving as a roadmap to achieve this vision.

This unit explores the connection between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Nigeria National Development Policies, highlighting the significance of aligning local development policies and community development efforts, empowering communities to actively contribute to the Nigeria's Sustainable Development Goals.



3.2 Learning Outcomes (LOs)

By the end of this unit, students should be able to:

- Understand the concept of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Identify the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their objectives.
- Recognize Nigeria's Alignment with the SDGs
- Recognize the trends, opportunities, and challenges in aligning community development with the SDGs.
- Identify Challenges and Opportunities Nigeria faces in achieving the SDGs.
- Apply Knowledge to Local Contexts in devising strategies to contribute to building stronger, more sustainable communities in Nigeria.



3.3 Main Content

3.3.1 Overview of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

At the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015, World leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). So, what are the SDGs? Let's start by unpacking the basics and then and explore the interconnected goals and targets.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 interconnected goals adopted by all UN member states in 2015. They represent a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. The aim

is to achieve a more sustainable and equitable future for all by 2030, by addressing critical issues like poverty, hunger, health, education, climate change, and environmental degradation.

What are these SDGs goals?



Figure 16: Sustainable Development Goals

An overview of each SDG with its corresponding target:

Sustainable Development Goals	Target
Goal 1. No Poverty: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.	Reduce at least by half the proportion of people living in extreme poverty.
Goal 2. Zero Hunger: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.	End hunger and ensure access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food for all.
Goal 3. Good Health and Well-being: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages.
Goal 4. Quality Education: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.	Ensure all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education
Goal 5. Gender Equality: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.	Eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls.
Goal 6. Clean Water and Sanitation: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.
Goal 7. Affordable and Clean Energy: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy services
Goal 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.	Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities.
Goal 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.	Modernize infrastructure and upgrade technology.
Goal 10. Reduced Inequality: Reduce inequality within and among countries	Reduce income inequality within and among countries.

Goal 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
Goal 12. Responsible Consumption and Production: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.	Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production.
Goal 13. Climate Action: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.	Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters.
Goal 14. Life Below Water: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.	Prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds.
Goal 15. Life on Land: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	Halt deforestation and significantly increase global forest area
Goal 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.	Reduce significantly all forms of violence and related death rates globally.
Goal 17. Partnerships for the Goals: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.	Mobilize the means required to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.

See the full list of goals and targets here: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>.

Understanding the SDGs: Underlying Principles

- **Ambitious Scope:** Addressing a wide range of issues, from poverty and hunger to climate change and inequality.
- **Targets:** Each SDG has specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) targets that provide a roadmap for achieving the goals.
- **Universal Application:** Relevant to all countries, regardless of their development status.
- **Interconnectedness:** The SDGs are not isolated goals. They are all interconnected and achieving one goal often contributes to progress in others. It's crucial to understand that the SDGs mutually reinforcing. For example, achieving gender equality (SDG 5) can lead to poverty reduction (SDG 1) and improved health outcomes (SDG 3). Similarly, addressing climate change (SDG 13) is essential for ensuring food security (SDG 2) and protecting biodiversity (SDG 15) (United Nations, 2015).
- **Integrated Approach:** The 17 SDGs are designed to address a wide range of interconnected issues, including poverty, hunger, health, education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, affordable energy, decent work, economic growth, infrastructure, inequality, sustainable cities, responsible consumption and production, climate action, oceans and marine resources, land, peace and justice, and partnerships (United Nations, 2015).
- **Transformative Vision:** Aiming for a world that is more just, equitable, and sustainable for all.

Click the link to get more information on Sustainable Development Goals

<https://youtu.be/0XTBYMfZyrM?si=NWYaGRXYuVb-CHV4>

3.3.1.2 Why are these Sustainable Development Goals Important?

They are based on principles that emphasize the interconnectedness, universality, inclusivity of global challenges, and how the SDGs address them holistically. This includes principles such as the:

- **Leave no one behind:** ensuring all individuals and communities, regardless of background or location, benefit from progress towards the SDGs.
- **Gender equality:** Empowering women and girls as key actors in achieving sustainable development.
- **Partnerships:** Collaboration between governments, civil society, private sector, and other stakeholders is crucial for implementation.
- **Data-driven approach:** Monitoring progress and making informed decisions based on reliable data.

You can use the UN's SDG website (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>) to explore each goal in detail, find resources, and learn about progress.

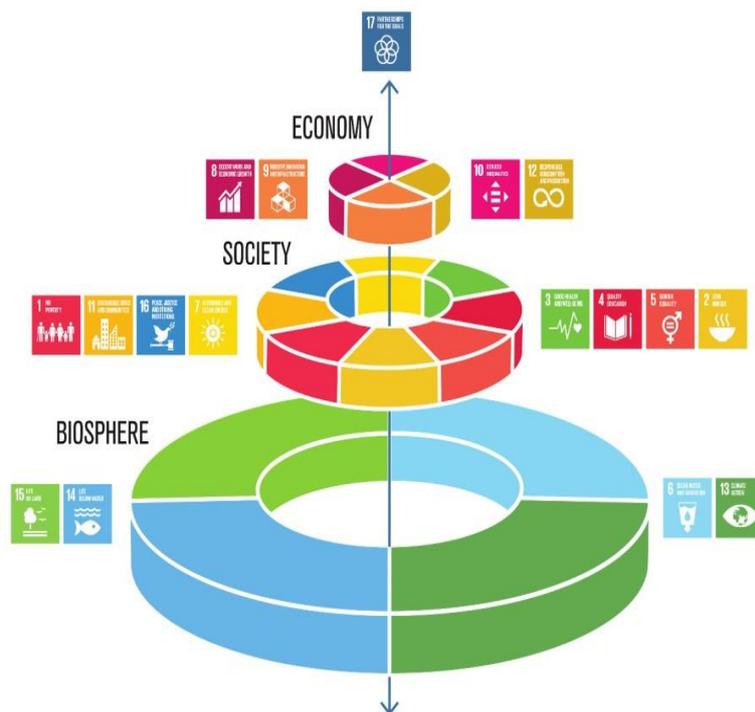


Figure 17: Interconnectedness of SDGs

Additional Resources:

- Animated explainer video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBxN9E5f7pc>
- UN Sustainable Development Goals website: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>
- Interactive SDG wheel: <https://globalgoals.org/>
- The Nigeria Second Voluntary National Review:
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=30022&nr=2401&menu=3170>

Self-Assessment Exercises 1

Quiz: Understanding Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

Q1: List five of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals.

Q2: What is the primary aim of SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being)?

Q3: How do SDGs contribute to community development in Nigeria?

Q4: Which SDG focuses specifically on education, and what is its main target?

Q5: Explain the significance of SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) in the context of Nigeria's development.

3.3.1.3 Nationalizing the Global Goals: Nigeria's National Development Plan

Nigeria's National Development Plan (NDP), specifically the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) 2017-2020, aligns with the SDGs: By aligning Nigeria's National Development Planning to the SDGs, Nigeria can play an active role in creating a brighter future for ourselves, our future generation and beyond. It also means to imagine Nigeria's future – a vibrant nation where everyone thrives in a healthy environment, enjoys equal opportunities, and lives with dignity. By addressing critical global challenges like poverty, hunger, inequality, climate change, and more.

3.3.2 Here's a brief overview of each SDG and its key targets, focusing on their relevance to Nigeria:

1. No Poverty: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
 - Targets: Reduce the proportion of people living in poverty to less than 10% by 2030.
 - Nigeria context: Poverty remains a major challenge in Nigeria, with over 40% of the population living below the national poverty line.
2. Zero Hunger: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.
 - Targets: Ensure access to safe, nutritious, and affordable food for all people.
 - Nigeria context: Food insecurity is a significant problem in Nigeria, with millions facing hunger and malnutrition.
3. Good Health and Well-being: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
 - Targets: Reduce maternal mortality ratio and ensure universal access to reproductive health services.
 - Nigeria context: Nigeria faces challenges in maternal and child health, with high mortality rates and limited access to healthcare.
4. Quality Education: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
 - Targets: Ensure all girls and boys complete primary and secondary education.
 - Nigeria context: Despite progress, millions of children in Nigeria remain out of school, and educational quality needs improvement.
5. Gender Equality: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
 - Targets: Eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls.
 - Nigeria context: Gender inequality persists in Nigeria, with women facing challenges in education, employment, and political participation.
6. Clean Water and Sanitation: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
 - Targets: Achieve universal access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation.
 - Nigeria context: Millions of Nigerians lack access to clean water and sanitation, posing health risks and hindering development.

7. **Affordable and Clean Energy:** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.
 - **Targets:** Increase the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.
 - **Nigeria context:** Nigeria relies heavily on fossil fuels, leading to energy insecurity and environmental damage. Expanding renewable energy is crucial.

8. **Decent Work and Economic Growth:** Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.
 - **Targets:** Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men.
 - **Nigeria context:** Unemployment and underemployment are major challenges in Nigeria, requiring economic diversification and job creation.

9. **Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure:** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation.
 - **Targets:** Upgrade infrastructure and promote sustainable industrialization that is inclusive and environmentally friendly.
 - **Nigeria context:** Nigeria needs to invest in infrastructure development and promote sustainable industries to create jobs and boost economic growth.

10. **Reduced Inequalities:** Reduce inequality within and among countries.
 - **Targets:** Reduce income inequality and ensure equal opportunities for all.
 - **Nigeria context:** Nigeria faces significant income and social inequality, requiring policies to address disparities and promote social justice.

11. **Sustainable Cities and Communities:** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.
 - **Targets:** Make cities and towns inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.
 - **Nigeria context:** Rapid urbanization in Nigeria poses challenges related to housing, sanitation, and infrastructure, requiring sustainable urban development.

12. **Responsible Consumption and Production:** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

How has Nigeria adopted and adapted the SDGs to its national development agenda?

3.3.2.1 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Focus for Nigeria:



Figure 20: SDGs Nigeria

Focus on Economic, Social, and Environmental Dimensions: The National Development Plan (NDP), specifically the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) (2017-2020), which was a critical mechanism for dealing with the economic downturn, also aligned national priorities with the SDGs. The ERGP focus on economic, social, and environmental dimensions of development aligns with the aspirations of Agenda 2030.

The NDP-ERGP integrates several strategic initiatives to achieve the SDGs, reflecting Nigeria's dedication to these global goals as follows:

- Establishing institutional frameworks at national and sub-national levels.
- Mapping SDGs data and publishing the Nigeria SDGs-Indicators Baseline Report.
- Aligning the ERGP with the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of the SDGs.

- Developing and customizing the Nigeria Integrated Sustainable Development Goals (iSDGs) Policy Simulation Model.
- Realigning the National Statistical System (NSS) with SDG requirements.
- Launching the Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs) for the SDGs.
- Conducting independent evaluations of priority SDGs (1, 3, and 4).
- Preparing the Second Voluntary National Review (VNR) on SDG implementation.

Integration of SDGs into the ERGP: Nigeria's Second Voluntary National Review on SDGs (VNR Report) revealed that the country's development strategies are fully aligned with the SDG. The VNR report highlights the integration of the selected SDGs (1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 16, and 17) into the ERGP, demonstrating a deliberate effort to translate SDG targets into national development objectives.

3.3.2.2 The key focus areas for Nigeria in the context of the SDGs with specific areas of alignment to ERGP are:

1. **Poverty (SDG-1) and Inclusive Economy (SDG-8):** Efforts are geared towards reducing poverty and fostering an economy that includes all segments of society. *The NDP* focuses on job creation, social safety nets, and financial inclusion to address poverty.
2. **Health and Well-being (SDG-3):** Prioritizing improvements in health systems, particularly in light of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. *The NDP* invests in healthcare infrastructure, essential medicines, and improved nutrition.
3. **Education (SDG-4):** Enhancing educational systems to ensure inclusive and quality education for all. *The NDP* prioritizes access to quality education, teacher training, and improved learning outcomes.
4. **Gender Equality (SDG-5):** Focusing on empowering women and achieving gender parity in various sectors. *The NDP* promotes women's economic empowerment, political participation, and access to education.

5. Inclusive Economy (SDG 8):

The NDP 's focus on economic diversification and job creation aligns with SDG

6. Peace and Security (SDG-16): Strengthening institutions to promote peace and justice.

7. Partnerships (SDG-17): Fostering strong global partnerships to achieve sustainable development.

The NDP acknowledges the importance of partnerships with the private sector, civil society, and international organizations to achieve the SDGs.

Nigeria's NDP demonstrates a clear commitment to the SDGs. Aligning with the SDGs through its strategic plans and integration efforts alongside a propose plan for the development of a successor plan to the ERGP, the Renewed Hope Agenda which presents an opportunity to further mainstream the SDGs into Nigeria's medium and long-term development plans.

3.4 Institutional Frameworks:

Nigeria has established various institutional frameworks at national and sub-national levels for effective SDG implementation, including the Nigeria Integrated Sustainable Development Goals (iSDG) Model and the re-alignment of the National Statistical System (NSS) as follows:

- National Level:
 - Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals (OSSAP-SDGs) established.
 - Integration of SDGs into national development plan, the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) 2017-2020.
 - Nigeria Integrated Sustainable Development Goals (iSDG) Model: This model helps simulate and track progress towards SDGs.
 - Realignment of National Statistical System (NSS) with SDGs: Ensures data collection aligns with SDG indicators.

- Integration of SDGs into Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP): Aligns national development plan with SDGs.
- Sub-national Level:
 - State-level iSDG models: Adapted versions of the national model for state-specific planning.
 - Local government involvement in SDG implementation: Encourages local participation and ownership.

3.4.1 Key Challenges and Opportunities Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

1. **Impact of COVID-19:** The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted Nigeria's progress towards the SDGs. It has strained the health system and shifted focus towards pandemic management, affecting other healthcare areas. Economic challenges, especially the decline in oil and gas revenues, have also been a significant concern.
2. **Data Gaps and Limitations:** The VNR acknowledges data limitations, highlighting the need for a robust system and consistent data collection.
3. **Funding and Resource Mobilization:** Increased government funding, particularly for health and education, is crucial for achieving SDGs.
4. **Strengthening Institutions and Capacity:** Sub-national capacities need to be strengthened for effective implementation at the local level.
5. **Civil Society Engagement:** Greater involvement of civil society organizations is recommended for improved transparency, accountability, and ownership of the SDG agenda.
6. Challenges in implementing policies effectively at local government levels.

Opportunities:

1. Leveraging technology: Utilize digital tools for data collection, communication, and monitoring.
2. Mobilizing private sector investment: Encourage partnerships and innovative financing mechanisms.

3. Strengthening institutional coordination: Improve collaboration between government agencies, civil society, and private sector.
4. Promoting local ownership and participation: Empower communities to drive SDG implementation.
5. Building resilience to shocks: Develop strategies to mitigate future crises like pandemics

Click on the link to get more information on Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP)

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/25541NIGERIA_VNR_PPT_Presentation.pdf

Self-Assessment Exercises 2

2. How do the SDGs shape community development policies, strategies, and practices in Nigeria?

3.5 Conclusion

In this unit, we delved into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their pivotal role in shaping community development in Nigeria. We explored the 17 goals, their objectives, and their integration into Nigeria's National Development Policies. The unit emphasized the importance of understanding these concepts and be able to apply them in designing and implementing community projects.



3.6 Summary

- Introduction to the 17 interconnected Sustainable Development Goals.
- Understanding the relevance of SDGs in Nigeria's context, focusing on economic, social, and environmental dimensions.

- Exploration of Nigeria’s National Development Plan and Economic Recovery and Growth Plan in alignment with the SDGs.
- Discussion on the challenges and opportunities in achieving SDGs in Nigeria, including the impact of COVID-19 and the need for robust data collection.



3.7 References/Further Readings/Web Resources

United Nations. (2015). Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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Nigeria’s Economic Recovery & Growth Plan (ERGP) (2017-2020).

World Health Organization Nigeria: 2019 Report.

Nigeria Integrated Sustainable Development Goals (iSDG) Model.

National Statistical System (NSS) alignment with SDGs.



3.8 Possible Answers to SAEs

Answers to SAEs 1

Quiz: Understanding Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

Q1: List five of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals.

Q2: What is the primary aim of SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being)?

Q3: How do SDGs contribute to community development in Nigeria?

Q4: Which SDG focuses specifically on education, and what is its main target?

Q5: Explain the significance of SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) in the context of Nigeria's development.

Answers to SAEs 2

Example Response: Students may identify any two SDGs and explain their importance based on factors such as Nigeria's economic, social, or environmental needs. For instance, SDG 1 (No Poverty) might be critical due to the high poverty rates, and SDG 4 (Quality Education) due to the need for educational improvements to drive overall development.

Module 3: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Unit 1: Introduction to Basic Elements of Community Project Planning, Design and Implementation

Unit structure

- 1.1 Introduction
- 1.2 Learning Outcomes (LOs)
- 1.3 Main Content
 - 1.3.1 Importance of Community Project Planning & Design
- 1.4 Approaches in Community Project Planning & Design
- 1.5 Conclusion
- 1.6 Summary
- 1.7 References/Further Readings/Web Resources
- 1.8 Possible Answers to Self-Assessment Exercise(s) within the content



Courtesy UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning Community Development Programme



1.0 Introduction

Community projects are vital for community development, as they enhance social cohesion and address local needs. Effective community project planning, and the subsequent implementation, monitoring and evaluation has many benefits. This unit will explore the key principles and strategies essential for successful community development initiatives. It will focus on a number of different approaches to community project planning, design and implementation. The two approaches that will be covered include the Community – Visioning, and the Vision, Mission, Objectives, Strategies and Action plans (VMOSA) approach.



1.2 Learning Outcomes (LOs)

At the end of this unit students should:

1. Understand the importance of community project planning and design.
2. Identify the key elements of community project planning and design.
3. Explain diverse approaches to community project planning design and implementation.



1.3 Main Content

1.3.1 Importance of Community Project Planning & Design

Community planning offers a range of benefits, including educating and engaging the public, which fosters vibrant rural and urban communities. It promotes economic development and ensures the efficient use of local services and infrastructure. Community planning provides a framework for community members and local governments to work together to decide the function and development of their community. Stakeholders in the community use this to make informed decisions about land use, economic development, environmental protection, and community revitalization and regeneration.

Click on the link for more information on Community Project Planning and Design
<https://youtu.be/ZHNJkbAaXpQ?si=ityF34k22M-uJB6E>

1.4 Approaches in Community Project Planning & Design

An important way to tackle emerging community challenges is for community workers to implement ongoing initiatives and devise new projects. One of the first steps is to make a plan. A plan is an essential element of a community project. A plan serves as a document with a roadmap and instructions to accomplish the intended objectives of a community project.

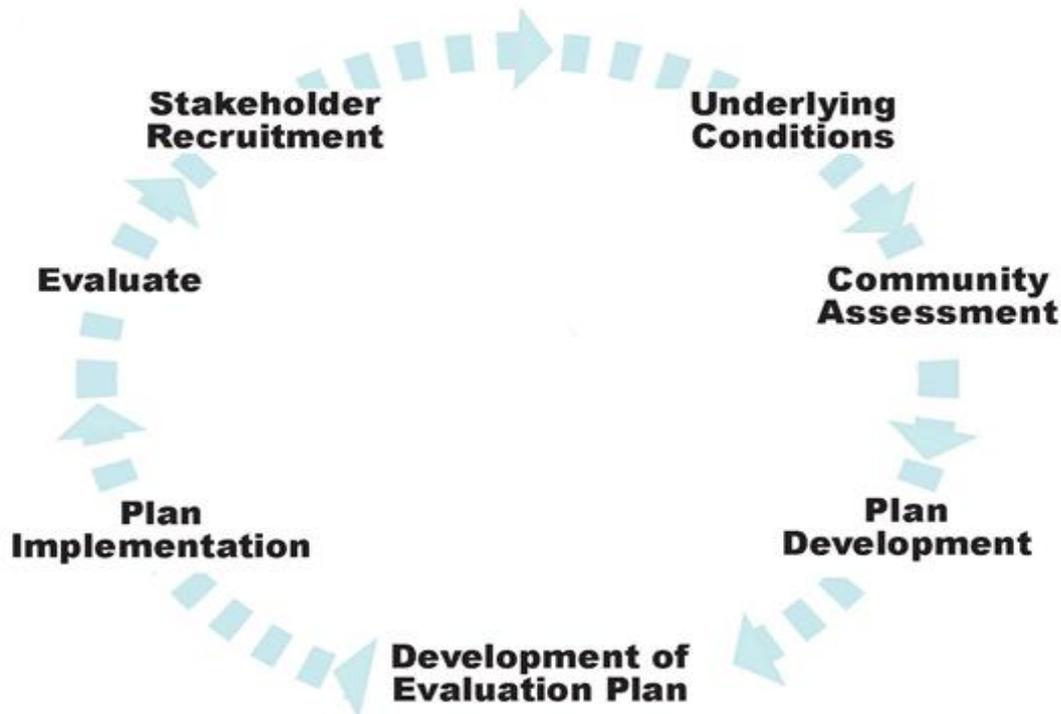
1. Community –Visioning Approach

There are different approaches to community project planning. One approach is through the community-visioning model (Okubo, 2009). This approach is primarily a collaborative process that brings together every sector of a community to recognise issues, assess community conditions, and develop collaborative strategies to enhance the quality of life in the community. Community members and stakeholders need to establish a shared understanding of what constitutes a community. Community-visioning efforts are carried out by citizens of all stripes who are concerned about their communities' future – they are the stakeholders. In effective community-visioning initiatives, a diverse range of political, regional, ethnic, and economic perspectives are represented among the stakeholders. Community visioning leads to an improved quality of life and also provide residents with fresh perspectives on overcoming obstacles and resolving issues as a community.

According to Okubo (2009), a community-visioning process involves two phases, *the initiation phase and the stakeholder phase*. These phases encompass five major steps. They include:

Discovering the Community's Future: This step involves engaging residents in discussing and identifying the kind of future they want for their community, including their objectives and values.

Vision Statement: The vision is the key element of this process. Once the community's vision is discovered, the next step is to formalize it into a comprehensive and representative vision statement that reflects the goals, objectives, and values of the community.



Stakeholder Engagement: The vision statement is used to guide strategic planning, decision making, and the actions necessary to achieve the community's goals. This step involves bringing together decision-makers and citizens to create shared goals and a larger plan for the community's future. The first phase is the initiation phase, where several essential tasks must be undertaken. The initial step involves forming an initiating committee, a small group comprising 12 to 15 people who represent diverse areas of the community. Their responsibilities include selecting a stakeholder group that mirrors the community's interests, b. designing a process to achieve desired outcomes, creating subcommittees for important roles, and addressing logistical concerns such as staffing, siting, scheduling, and fundraising.

Creating a Strategic Action Plan: After the community vision is established, the next step is to develop a Strategic Action Plan with defined priorities and achievable targets to work towards the vision.

Implementing the Community Vision: This step emphasizes that achieving the community's future goals requires great effort, determination, and teamwork. The community-visioning process is a means to bring together all sectors of a community to identify problems, evaluate, and work towards achieving the desired future.

The next stage is to design the process. First, the stakeholders are recruited, and must be empowered to make decisions. The process timetable is then set, and a structure is designed to coordinate the project. A coordinating committee is then formed, and the project is staffed. Funding sources are identified and pursued. Community and outside resources will be needed to implement the action plan. The successful implementation of the community project requires the creation of an implementation framework, to supervise and guarantee that the following are covered:

- i. Goals and intended outcomes should be made clear to the implementation committee and implementers.
- ii. Project prioritisation criteria, which will be determined by the implementation committee or stakeholders. Project priorities must be according to the agreed criteria.
- iii. Determining implementation obstacles and developing strategies to get over them.
- iv. A comprehensive schedule determined by the resources, obstacles, and goals that are prioritized.
- v. The coordination of all actions taken in accordance with the action plan.
- vi. Constant sharing of ideas and results with the community.

Self Assessment Exercises 1

Quiz on Community Development Planning and Implementation

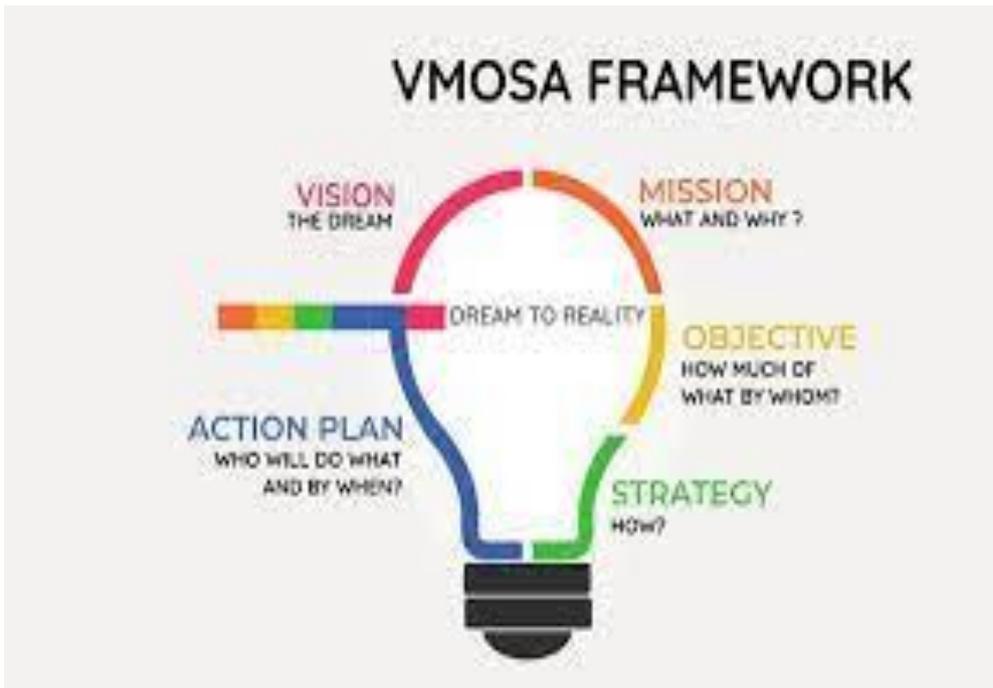
Question 1: Define what a vision statement in community planning entails and give an example.

Question 2: Differentiate between broad and specific strategies in community project planning. Provide examples of each.

Question 3: Explain the VMOSA approach and its importance in community development.

Question 4: How does stakeholder engagement influence the outcome of community visioning?

1. Vision, Mission, Objectives, Strategies and Action Plan (VMOSA)



According to the *Community Toolbox*, community organisations may set a vision and create workable strategies to implement change with the use of the practical planning process known as VMOSA (Vision, Mission, Objectives, Strategies, and Action Plans). VMOSA is used when starting a new initiative, redirecting an old one or starting a large project, and is usually carried out by a community organisation. It consists of the following five concepts.

a. Vision

By creating a vision statement, a community organisation makes its beliefs and guiding principles clear to the larger community (as well as to its own staff, participants, and volunteers). Generally speaking, vision statements should be understood and shared by members of the community, broad enough to encompass a variety of local perspectives, inspiring and motivating. A vision communicates what the community organisation believes are the ideal conditions for the community – how things would look if the important issue is addressed. This is generally described by one or more phrases or vision statements, which are brief proclamations that convey the community's dreams for the future. An example of this vision is *education for all, security and safety, safe streets etc.*

b. Mission

A mission articulates what a community wants to achieve and why. The next stage of the action planning process is to develop mission statements. A mission statement is a description of the community organisation's goals and plans for action. It is more specific and "action-oriented" than vision statements. Examples of mission statements include addressing issues like bad roads or low quality education, or stating objectives like free education for all. The mission statement must be concise, inclusive and outcome oriented. This means that it must be clear what it broadly wants to achieve in a manner inclusive of community stakeholders. Examples of mission statements are: *To create a safe and secure community through effective community collaboration and advocacy.*

c. Objectives

The next step in the community project planning and design is to develop objectives. Objectives are specific, measurable, and time-bound goals set to achieve desired outcomes within a defined period. The objectives of an organisation usually specify what has to be done and by who. A community-based project to provide access to healthcare for pregnant women may have the following objective among others: *By 2025, enhance access to healthcare for pregnant women by achieving a 25% increase in the number of expectant mothers who receive regular and timely medical consultations and support during their pregnancy.* It is important to note that objectives and their timelines serve as a guide and can change with a change in circumstances.

d. Strategies

A strategy is a systematic design that shows how a specific goal or objective is to be achieved. Strategies can be broad, or they can be specific. Broad strategies refer to overarching approaches which involve diverse stakeholders, while specific strategies consist of defined actions which target particular aspects or areas within the community. Some examples of broad and specific strategies that could be developed for a community project are as follows:

- a. *Broad Strategy:* Develop partnerships with local schools, to raise awareness about the importance of education.

Specific Strategy: Implement a reading program to improve literacy skills for children in poor areas.

- b. *Broad Strategy:* Engage residents, schools, and environmental organisations to increase awareness of the benefits of green spaces.

Specific Strategy: Implement a community tree-planting project to improve the environmental quality.

e. Action Plan

In a community project, an action plan details what, where and who will carry out or implement the strategies. It is the last step in the approach. An action plan is usually a detailed document that outlines specific steps, tasks, and timelines to achieve the defined goals and objectives of a project. It can be seen as a roadmap for implementing the strategies, and it provides a clear and organised framework for community members, stakeholders, and project teams to follow. Typically, it includes information on who is responsible for each task, the resources required, milestones, and deadlines. An action plan makes it easy to track progress and allows for adjustments as needed. Ultimately, an action plan is a critical tool in turning the vision and objectives of a community project into tangible and achievable outcomes.

An action plan must include.

- a) targeted (community and systemic) improvements that are to be pursued.
- b) the particular procedures that must be taken in order to effect changes in all relevant sectors, of the community. This is known as an action step.

Self Assessment Exercise 2

Case Study: Implementing a Health Initiative in a Rural Nigerian Community

Scenario: Imagine you are a community development worker tasked with implementing a health initiative aimed at reducing maternal mortality in a rural Nigerian community. Using the VMOSA approach, outline a brief plan including a vision, mission, objective, strategy, and action plan.

Instruction: Reflect on the importance of community involvement in the planning phase and how you would ensure their engagement throughout the project.

This unit has elucidated the essence of meticulously planning and implementing community development projects. We explored the Community Visioning and VMOSA approaches, highlighting their significance in engaging community members and stakeholders in a collaborative effort to identify issues, set goals, and execute plans that cater to the community's needs and aspirations. By understanding and applying these approaches, community development practitioners can foster more inclusive, sustainable, and impactful projects.



1.6 Summary

Community project planning and implementation are crucial for addressing local needs and enhancing social cohesion. The Community Visioning approach emphasizes collective effort in defining a shared vision for the community's future.

The VMOSA (Vision, Mission, Objectives, Strategies, and Action Plans) approach offers a structured framework for planning and executing community projects. Both approaches underscore the importance of stakeholder engagement, setting clear goals, and strategic action planning for successful community development.



1.7 References/Further Readings/Web Resources

Phillips, R., & Pittman, R. (2008). An introduction to community development. Routledge.

Okubo, D. (2000) The Community Visioning and Strategic Planning Handbook, Denver, CO: National Civic League Press.

Center for Community Health and Development. (n.d.). Chapter 8, Developing a strategic Plan. University of Kansas. <https://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/structure/strategic-planning/vmosa/main>



1.8 Possible Answers to SAEs

Answer to SAE 1

Quiz Answers:

1. A vision statement is a future-oriented declaration of the community's aspirations and ultimate goals. Example: "A community where every resident enjoys access to quality healthcare and education."
2. Broad strategies are overarching plans that guide the general direction of project implementation, e.g., "Enhance community health by promoting wellness education." Specific strategies are detailed actions within the broader strategy, e.g., "Organize monthly health workshops in community centers."
3. The VMOSA approach is a practical planning process that helps community organizations set a vision, mission, establish objectives, formulate strategies, and develop action plans. It's crucial for its structured method that guides communities from visioning to action.
4. Stakeholder engagement ensures that the project addresses the real needs of the community, harnesses local expertise and resources, and builds ownership and commitment towards the project's success.

Answer to SAE 2

- Vision: A community where every mother has access to and utilizes maternal healthcare services.
- Mission: To reduce maternal mortality in rural communities by improving access to quality maternal healthcare.
- Objective: To increase the number of expectant mothers receiving prenatal care by 50% within two years.
- Strategy: Partner with local health clinics to provide mobile prenatal services. Train community health workers to educate women on the importance of prenatal care.
- Action Plan: Develop a schedule for mobile clinic visits, organize training sessions for health workers, and launch an awareness campaign on prenatal care importance.
- Community Involvement: Engage community leaders to endorse the project, involve local women's groups in planning and implementation, and gather feedback to ensure the project meets the community's needs.

Unit 2: Introduction to Community Needs Assessment and Ethics in Community Development

Unit structure

- 2.1 Introduction
- 2.2 Learning Outcomes
- 2.3 Main Content
 - 2.3.1 Definition of Community Needs Assessment
 - 2.3.2 Benefits of a Community Needs Assessment
 - 2.3.3 Elements of a Community Needs Assessment
- 2.4. Ethics
 - 2.4.1 Ethical Issues in Community Development
- 2.5 Conclusion
- 2.6 Summary
- 2.7 References/Further Readings/Web Resources
- 2.8 Possible Answers to Self-Assessment Exercise(s) within the content



2.0 Introduction

Before any community development initiative or project can be started, it is important to know what the community currently possesses, and what it needs in terms of services and programs. It is important to have a picture of the community's strengths and weaknesses, and of its assets and liabilities. In this unit, we will examine what community needs assessment is and why it is important and an integral part of community development. We will also examine the role that ethics plays in community development. A community needs assessment is a systematic process of identifying the needs or gaps in.



2.2 Learning Outcomes (LOs)

At the end of this unit, students should:

1. Define a community needs assessment.
2. Understand ethics in community development
3. Understand the importance of ethics and needs assessment in community development.



2.3 Main Content

2.3.1 Definition of Community Needs Assessment

A community needs assessment is an important precursor to a community project or initiative. The difference between what is and what should be is what is known as a need. It might be as tangible as the need for food and water, for adequate healthcare or for schools. A community needs assessment is a systematic process of identifying the needs or gaps in service in a community. It involves surveying stakeholders and collecting data in order to understand the strengths and assets available in a community. A close examination of a problem can reveal what is actually required and pave the way for future progress. This helps in prioritising resources and in effective resource allocation. A needs assessment also identifies gaps in available services for the community so that appropriate community projects can be planned and designed. Overall, a community needs assessment is an important tool for organisations and communities to better understand the needs and strengths of their community and to develop programs and services that meet those needs.

2.3.2 Benefits of a Community Needs Assessment

1. A community needs assessment is an important tool for organisations and communities to better understand the needs and strengths of their community and to develop programs and services that meet those needs.

2. A good community needs assessment is essential to the success of community and economic development initiatives. Community leaders or organisations who take action without first performing an assessment run the risk of wasting time and limited funds and risk failure of the initiative.
3. It provides a full picture of the strengths and weaknesses of a community, and of its assets and liabilities.
4. It facilitates dialogue among community members about concerns and difficulties as well as how best to move the community forward. This insight encourages residents to concentrate on finding solutions.
5. The needs assessment report may be used as a community profile and a source of information about the community.

2.3.3 Elements of a Community Needs Assessment

A needs assessment is primarily an information gathering exercise about critical issues influencing the community's capacity for growth and development. Data is collected about the community's needs and assets from the community members and from secondary sources. Data collection methods could be quantitative or qualitative. There are several methods of collecting data for need assessments.

- i. **Questionnaires & Surveys:** Questionnaires are distributed to community members in such a manner as to cover as many members as possible. Surveys can also be conducted digitally through emails, or by phones.
- ii. **One on One Interviews:** Interviews are particularly useful when information is required from key informants in the community. These are community members who are knowledgeable about certain aspects of the community or are experts in their fields, for example traditional leaders, local government chairmen, principals of schools, or police chiefs.
- iii. **Community Meetings:** Community meetings provide a forum a forum that is open to the public. They are formal, planned gatherings that have an agenda and topics for discussion and rules of participation. They are an effective way of gathering wide ranging and diverse views from the community members.

- iv. **Focus Groups:** These are meetings of a specified number of people which focus on particular topics or a few related topics. Focus groups of people can be differentiated by gender, age or occupation. For example, women only focus group, or youth, or farmers. Similar to community meetings, focus groups are planned and have a specific agenda. However, there is a limited number of participants, although as many focus groups as are needed can be convened.
- v. **Research:** In most communities there is already a wealth of existing data that can be tapped into, such as population data, land use data, housing data, health data etc. This can be uncovered by conducting a thorough research.

Remember. In most cases, a combination of data collection methods works best to give the required information for an effective needs assessment.



Women Focus Group discussion Ichakobe community -Ibilla ward Oju LGA, Benue state | Courtesy NASSCO

Self Assessment Exercises 1

1. Quiz on Community Needs Assessment

1. What is a community needs assessment and what purpose does it serve?
2. List and briefly describe two data collection methods used in community needs assessment.
3. Explain the importance of confidentiality in community needs assessments.

2.4. Ethics

In community development, ethics refers to the principles and values that guide the behaviour of individuals and organisations involved in community development activities. The way individuals behave is influenced by a combination of societal, legal, moral, and personal principles of what is appropriate and right. Ethical behaviour should be the bedrock of all community interventions and initiatives. Ethical behaviour is important in community development because it increases a program's effectiveness, it safeguards the interests of the community and of the project workers. Everyone who participates in community development is subject to a code of ethics.

Some ethical codes are formal, there are often professional and legal codes of ethics that have to be adhered to, particularly in the legal and health fields or social work.

2.4.1 Ethical Issues in Community Development

1. **Consent:** Consent is a fundamental ethical principle that is critical for building trust in community development projects, whether it is an intervention and in data collection. It involves obtaining permission from community members before engaging them in any development activities, research, or interventions. This process includes informing individuals about the purpose, scope, and potential impact of the proposed activities, as well as respecting their right to make an informed decision about their participation.
2. **Confidentiality:** Confidentiality in community development refers to the protection of sensitive information shared by community members during interventions, assessments, or referrals. Community members have a right to confidentiality when participating in any community development interventions. It is a key ethical principle in community development, especially when working with vulnerable or marginalised groups. To ensure confidentiality, community workers must explain what information will be collected, how it will be used, who it will be shared with, and what their rights and options are. They should also protect and store data securely. Confidentiality promotes trust, respect, and positive emotional wellbeing, and encourages people to come forward with issues and concerns.

3. **Conflict of Interest:** A conflict of interest could arise when personal financial, political, professional, social, or family interests have an effect on judgment or actions in decision-making, and in relationships with participants. In community interventions, these conflicts may have a detrimental impact on community projects and on fund allocation. Such conflicts of interests are deemed unethical and must be avoided in order to safeguard the integrity of community development interventions. Individuals in such conflict-of-interest situations must actively seek resolution to uphold integrity of community development.
4. **Competence:** When a community organisation does work in a community in the form of a project or intervention, it essentially enters into a contractual agreement with participants to fulfill the promised work. Implicit in this contract is the expectation that both the individuals carrying out the work and the organization is expected to possess the competence to achieve their objectives of the project. For example, for a literacy intervention program in schools that commits to improving students' reading skills, the expectation is that the staff involved are competent in literacy and the organisation demonstrates competence in managing the project.

Click on the link to get more information on ethical issues in Community Development

<https://youtu.be/5cDgjQOkftA?si=6DgyorV7OZReUp-G>

Self Assessment Exercises 1

Ethical Dilemma Case Study: A Community Health Project in Nigeria

2. Scenario: You are leading a community health project aimed at improving maternal health in a rural Nigerian community. During the needs assessment phase, you discover sensitive information about cultural practices affecting maternal health negatively. How would you address this issue while respecting the community's cultural norms and ensuring ethical integrity in your project?

Instruction: Reflect on the ethical considerations such as consent, confidentiality, and respect for cultural norms.:

2.5 Conclusion

This unit delved into the critical aspects of community needs assessment and the ethical principles underpinning community development. It emphasized the significance of systematically identifying community needs and gaps to inform the planning and implementation of development projects. Furthermore, the unit underscored the paramount importance of adhering to ethical standards such as consent, confidentiality, competence, and avoiding conflicts of interest to foster trust, respect, and effectiveness in community development efforts.



2.6 Summary

A community needs assessment is a foundational step in understanding the specific needs, strengths, and gaps within a community.

Ethical principles in community development, including consent, confidentiality, competence, and managing conflicts of interest, are crucial for ensuring the integrity and success of development initiatives. Various data collection methods, including surveys, interviews, community meetings, focus groups, and secondary research, offer a comprehensive understanding of community needs. Engaging community members ethically and respectfully in the assessment process is essential for building trust and ensuring the relevance and effectiveness of development projects.



2.7 References/Further Readings/Web Resources

Banks, S. (2019). Ethics, equity and community development: mapping the terrain. In *Ethics, Equity and Community Development* (pp. 3-36). Policy Press.

Center for Community Health and Development Chapter 19, Ethical Issues in Community Interventions. University of Kansas. <https://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/analyze/choose-and-adapt-community-interventions/ethical-issues/main>

Banks, S., Shevellar, L., & Narayanan, P. (2023). Ethical issues in community development: setting the scene. *Community Development Journal*, 58(1), 1-18.



1.8 Possible Answers to SAEs

Answer to SAE 1 1. Quiz Answers:

1. A community needs assessment is a process to identify the needs and resources of a community, aiming to inform the development of targeted interventions that address those needs effectively.
2. Two data collection methods include:
 - Questionnaires & Surveys: Tools for gathering quantitative data from a broad segment of the community.
 - Focus Groups: Small, discussion-based groups for collecting qualitative insights on specific topics.
3. Confidentiality is crucial in community needs assessments to protect the privacy of individuals, foster trust, and encourage honest participation.

Answer to SAE 2

Ethical Dilemma Case Study Answer:

In addressing the sensitive issue, it would be essential to engage with community leaders and members in a respectful dialogue to understand the cultural practices deeply. Seeking consent and ensuring confidentiality are paramount. Solutions should be co-created with the community, emphasizing the health benefits while respecting cultural norms. Ethical integrity can be maintained by transparently communicating the project's goals, actively listening to community concerns, and adapting the project to align with ethical standards and community values.

Unit 3: Introduction to Monitoring and Evaluation of Community Projects

Unit structure

- 3.1 Introduction
- 3.2 Learning Outcomes (LOs)
 - 3.3 Main Content
 - 3.3.1 Definition: Monitoring & Evaluation
 - 3.3.2 Benefits of Monitoring & Evaluating Community Projects
- 3.4 Types of Evaluation
- 3.5 Conclusion
- 3.6 Summary
- 3.7 References/Further Readings/Web Resources
- 3.8 Possible Answers to Self-Assessment Exercise(s)



3.0 Introduction

Monitoring and evaluation of community development progress is essential. Communities must showcase the results of their initiatives to be accountable to residents, secure funding, and evaluate the effectiveness of their programs. In this unit, we examine the definition of monitoring and evaluation and the distinctions between them. We also examine why monitoring and evaluation are important and identify and discuss the different types of evaluation.



3.2 Learning Outcomes (LOs)

At the end of the unit, students should:

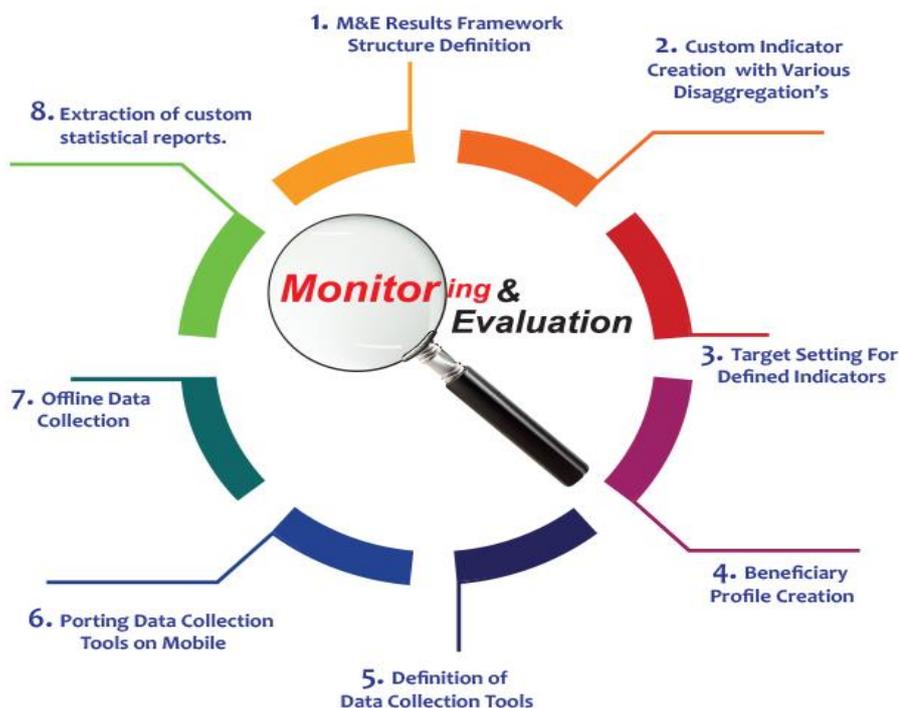
1. Understand Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) definitions and their distinctions.
2. Explain the importance of M & E in the context of community development.
3. Explain different techniques of evaluation.



3.3 Main Content

3.3.1 Definition: Monitoring & Evaluation

Monitoring is “a continuous assessment both of the functioning of the project activities in the context of implementation schedules” (Kariuki, 2014). Monitoring in community projects systematically measures progress and evaluates the effectiveness of project activities. Evaluation refers to a “process that critically examines a community project or a programme. It involves collecting and analysing information about a project’s activities, characteristics and outcomes” (Ardle & Murray, 2020). Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of community development projects helps measure progress and evaluate their effectiveness. It also ensures that development efforts align with the needs and aspirations of the community. Monitoring and evaluation are almost always grouped together, but it is crucial to recognise their distinctions. Monitoring is continuous and occurs throughout a project’s timeline, while an evaluation assesses the entire project cycle. Typically, monitoring is carried out by those directly engaged in project implementation, while evaluation is most effectively carried out by an impartial external party, ensuring unbiased consultations with project/programme staff.



3.3.2 Benefits of Monitoring & Evaluating Community Projects

- a. A robust M&E process ensures that project activities are transparent and ensures accountability for both internal and external stakeholders, including funders.
- b. Monitoring provides timely feedback on progress in project implementation and allows problems to be detected and rectified.
- c. M&E assists community organisations to learn from their mistakes and setbacks, identifies best practices and enables replication of successful programmes.

Click on the link to get more information on Monitoring and Evaluation

<https://youtu.be/sgd8kbaxgfM?si=D-5etHM5K2fRrQ5j>

https://youtu.be/wRX2zuDt_DM?si=zLfe0bTbZJAbkSXN

3.4 Types of Evaluation

A number of methods of evaluation have become established in monitoring and evaluation of community projects. They include Result Based Management (RBM), outcome mapping and most significant change technique (MSC) (Ardle & Murray 2020).

- i. **Result-Based Management (RBM):** This method is usually applied for mid-term evaluations, and at certain stages in a project's life cycle to bring to light on new and developing concerns. They are also used in final evaluations. RBM asks questions such as needed to support programmes include: How many individuals were reached by a project and the unit cost per person? Other questions may include the extent of income increase as a result of the project, were successful in obtaining a certificate in a specific skill. These type of questions and information, and method of evaluation is particularly favoured by funders.
- ii. **Outcome Mapping:** This approach determines how certain actions lead to specific outputs by attributing causes to effects. It relies on the theory of change framework which outlines the expected causal links between activities, outcomes, and goals in a community project or program. For example, it could evaluate how participating in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) programs can lead to improved academic skills and critical thinking, and lead to not only intellectual growth but also increased confidence, and this could potentially translate into better

career outcomes. A second example is how regular vaccinations for children can lead to improved immunity, contributing not only to physical well-being but also to enhanced school attendance and academic performance, and consequently promoting a healthier childhood.

- iii. **The Most Significant Change (MSC):** In this model of monitoring and evaluation, communities are asked to describe changes in their lives. Community stakeholders themselves decide the sorts of change that should be recorded. Evaluators ask questions about the most significant changes in participants' lives within a defined timeframe (e.g. a month, a year). The kind of change to be evaluated are determined by the stakeholders themselves and they could include - changes in the quality of people's lives, in community politics or in the environment or in their income and wellbeing. Community members use stories to document the changes that have occurred. These stories are analysed by both community stakeholders and evaluators to produce a picture of change and in so doing evaluate the effectiveness of the project.

Self Assessment Exercise

Quiz on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E):

1. What is the difference between monitoring and evaluation in the context of community development projects?
2. Describe one benefit of implementing a robust monitoring and evaluation process in community projects.
3. Explain the Result-Based Management (RBM) technique and its application in community development.

Case Study: Evaluation of a Community Health Initiative in Nigeria

Scenario: Imagine a community health initiative aimed at reducing maternal mortality rates in a rural area of Nigeria. The project includes health education, provision of medical supplies, and training for local midwives.

Question: Based on the M&E techniques discussed (RBM, Outcome Mapping, MSC), propose an evaluation strategy for this initiative that would help assess its impact on maternal health in the community.

This unit delved into the critical aspects of community needs assessment and the ethical principles underpinning community development. It emphasized the significance of systematically identifying community needs and gaps to inform the planning and implementation of development projects. Furthermore, the unit underscored the paramount importance of adhering to ethical standards such as consent, confidentiality, competence, and avoiding conflicts of interest to foster trust, respect, and effectiveness in community development efforts.



3.6 Summary

Monitoring and evaluation (M& E) are an essential component of a successful community project. There are many benefits to a community development from having a robust M & E process. These include accountability, transparency, and value for money. M & E is also one of the most effective ways of determining the success or otherwise of community development initiatives. M&E techniques include result based management (RBM), outcome mapping and Most Significant Change (MSC) technique.



3.7 References/Further Readings/Web Resources

Ardle, O. M., & Murray, U. (2021). Fit for measure? Evaluation in community development. *Community Development Journal*, 56(3), 432-448.

Phillips, R., & Pittman, R. (2008). *An introduction to community development*. Routledge.

Kariuki, J. G. (2014). An exploration of the guiding principles, importance and challenges of monitoring and evaluation of community development projects and programmes. *International Journal of Business & Social Science*, vol. 5, 1, p.140–147.



3.8 Possible Answers to SAEs

Quiz Answers:

1. Monitoring is the continuous tracking of a project's progress, while evaluation is the systematic assessment of its overall effectiveness and impact.
2. One benefit of robust M&E is that it provides timely feedback that can be used to make adjustments and improve project outcomes.
3. Result-Based Management (RBM) focuses on achieving specific outcomes and uses indicators to measure progress. It's applied in community development to ensure that projects contribute effectively to the desired changes in the community.

Case Study Answer:

An effective evaluation strategy could combine all three mentioned techniques. Use RBM to track specific health outcomes (e.g., reduction in maternal mortality rates), Outcome Mapping to understand how project activities lead to improvements in health education and practices among local midwives, and MSC to capture transformative stories from mothers and families who benefited from the initiative. This multi-faceted approach allows for a comprehensive assessment of the initiative's impact on maternal health in the community, ensuring that quantitative data and qualitative experiences inform future project adjustments and decisions.

